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CARDIFF CITY

•—VERSUS—•

BOLTON WANDERERS

SAT 27TH APR 3:00PM



MATCH 45 £3

2012/13 FOOTBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

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BOLTON WANDERERS

SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 2013

KICK-OFF 3.00PM **npower CHAMPIONSHIP**

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CONTENTS

CARDIFF CITY v BOLTON WANDERERS

SATURDAY ► 27TH APRIL 2013 ► 3.00PM

▼ MAIN FEATURES



08

The Manager reflects on a memorable fortnight, but demands professionalism and points against Bolton and Hull.

MALKY MACKAY



28

Malky Mackay speaks in depth to Barrie McAuliffe, reflecting on our historic title-winning 2012/13 campaign.

WE'VE EARNED THE RIGHT



52

Mark Denham takes a month by month look at an epic season for the City.

THE HISTORY BOYS



72

Richard Shepherd speaks to a hero of our '92/93 promotion year, Nathan Blake.

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL



14

BACK TO THE FUTURE



16

REPORTS: CHARLTON & BURNLEY



26

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



62

BOLTON WANDERERS



71

MEMORABLE MOMENTS



77

THE CITY ARCHIVES



79

MANAGER MEMORIES



86

HUDSON: THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY CAREER

REGULARS

- 10 CCS PRESS
- 25 DVP UPDATE
- 39 CARDIFF CITY PLAYER
- 80 CITY STATS
- 84 TICKETS & TRAVEL
- 90 TODAY'S SQUADS

MALKY MACKAY

FOR ALL OF US

Good afternoon and welcome to Cardiff City Stadium for the last time this season for today's game with Bolton Wanderers.

I'd like to start by thanking all of you for the enormous part you have played in making this season such a special one for the club and all of South Wales. Together we have all made history and led this club to only its third ever league title in 114 years of trying.

Obviously we are all thrilled with the success and I feel that the accolade of being named the best team in the division is just reward for the enormous amount of work that has gone on here since I first made the journey to Wales almost two years ago. Every week we all see the incredible dedication and fantastic work ethic of the playing squad out there on the pitch, but there's always so much work behind the scenes that often goes unnoticed to the outside observer – work put in by our excellent football staff and dedicated office staff.

A lot of people have worked at this club, and supported it, for many years and during that period have lived through some very tough times, so moments like winning promotion last week would have meant an awful lot to them. I was particularly pleased that the players kept focused after all the hullabaloo and celebrations of last Tuesday and managed to produce a very good display last Saturday at Burnley. We fully deserved our half-time lead and were only disappointed not to be further in front.

Burnley had a lot to play for with their survival in the Championship still not confirmed, so it was no surprise that they came on so strongly in the second half and I think they perhaps

deserved their point, even though the goal came very late.

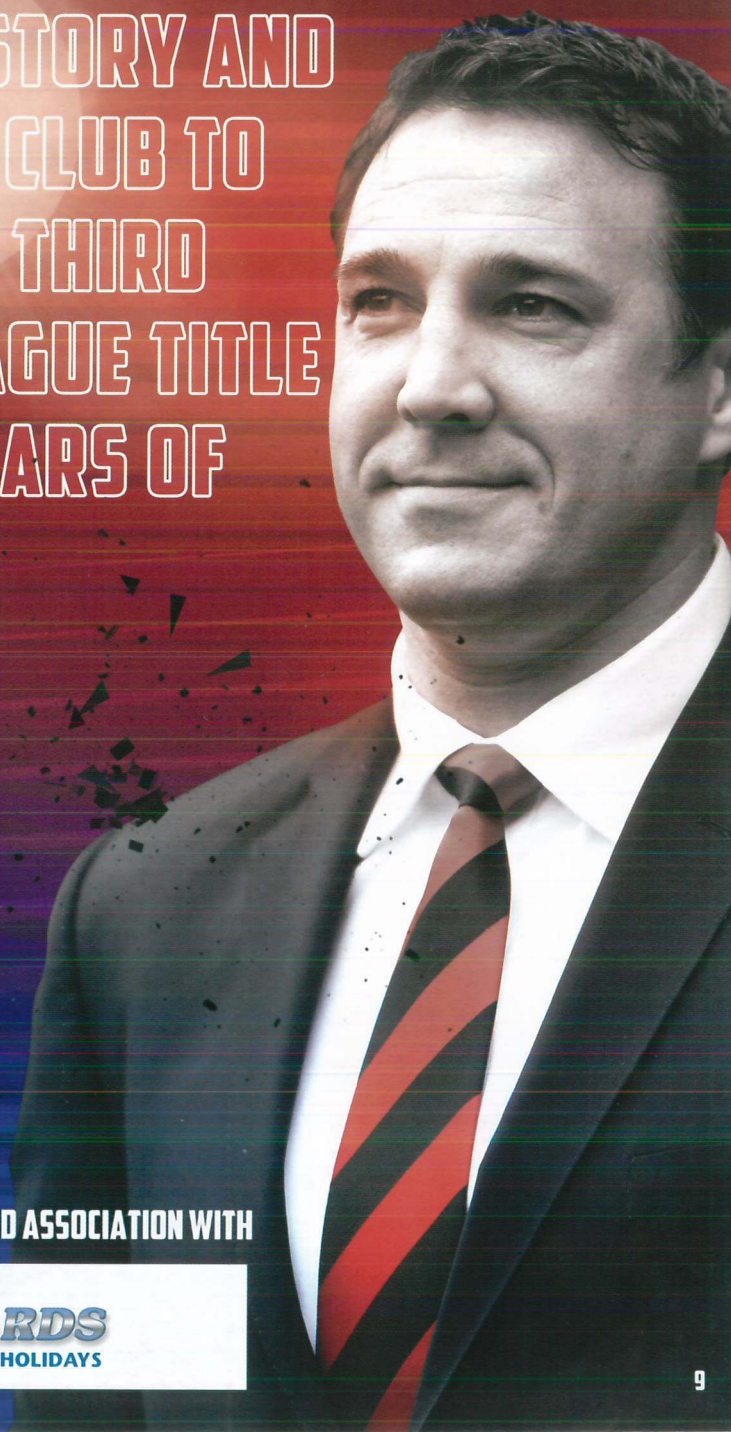
You will have seen lots of talk in the papers since our promotion about which players we may or may not be going to sign this summer in preparation for our debut Premier League campaign – I've seen plenty of names that have made me chuckle – so I'd like to take this opportunity to assure you that we have already put in a lot of preparation for this moment and whatever squad reinforcements we do make before next season will be the result of our usual hard work and following a carefully laid-out plan.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Dougie Freedman and his Bolton players, staff and supporters to Wales today. The league table obviously shows that this game is another huge one with Bolton currently in a play-off position, so there is plenty to play for and it is important that we respect the integrity of the league and play to our maximum both today and next Saturday when the season comes to its end at Hull.

I'll sign off for the last time this season with a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us over the course of this arduous but successful season. I'll look forward to seeing our travelling fans at Hull next Saturday, before our victory parade next Sunday. After that it's only a matter of time before we're back here in August when we'll welcome our first ever Premier League visitors for a league match.

Enjoy the game, enjoy your summer and thanks again.

"TOGETHER WE HAVE ALL
MADE HISTORY AND
LED THIS CLUB TO
ONLY ITS THIRD
EVER LEAGUE TITLE
IN 114 YEARS OF
TRYING "



MALKY'S NOTES IN PROUD ASSOCIATION WITH





CLUB HONOURS

FA CUP WINNERS 1927

FA CUP FINALISTS 1925, 2008

LEAGUE CUP FINALISTS 2012

FA CUP SEMI FINALISTS 1921

FA CHARITY SHIELD WINNERS 1927

DIV. 1 RUNNERS UP 1924

CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS 2013

DIV. 2 RUNNERS UP 1921, 1952, 1960

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF RUNNERS-UP 2010

DIV. 3 (S) CHAMPIONS 1947

DIV. 3 CHAMPIONS 1993

DIV. 3 RUNNERS UP 1976, 1983, 2001

DIV. 3 THIRD PLACE 1999

DIV. 4 RUNNERS UP 1988

DIV. 2 PLAY-OFF WINNERS 2003

WELSH CUP WINNERS

1912, 1920, 1922, 1923, 1927, 1928,
1930, 1956, 1959, 1964, 1965, 1967,
1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1974,
1976, 1988, 1992, 1993

ALGARVE CHALLENGE CUP WINNERS
2008

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS CUP
SEMI-FINALISTS 1968

FAW PREMIER CUP WINNERS 2002

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CUP
SEMI-FINALISTS 1965/66

F.A. YOUTH CUP FINALISTS 1970/71

TODAY'S MASCOTS

Leading out the Bluebirds this afternoon are 10-year-old **Jodie Mott**, 5 year-old **Harvie Evans**, 9-year-old Callum Mackay, 7-year-old **Francesca Mackay**, 5-year-old **Lexi Bellamy** and 3-year-old **Archie McNaughton**.

Jodie attends Milton Junior School and her favourite City stars are Peter Whittingham and David Marshall. She enjoys football and street dancing and says today: *"I'm excited to be mascot and looking forward to walking on the pitch! Good luck City!"*



Harvie goes to Ysgol Bro Eirwg and his favourite players are Kevin McNaughton, Craig Bellamy and Peter Whittingham. He enjoys football and wishes the Bluebirds the best of luck this afternoon.



Callum and **Francesca** are very happy to be going to the Premier League! Callum is a big fan of the whole City team, while Francesca's favourite players are Don Cowie, Tommy Smith and Craig Bellamy. Callum says: "We are going up, say we are going up" – while sister Francesca cheers, "Come on City!" In his spare time Callum enjoys football, tennis and swimming, while Francesca's favourite hobby is annoying Daddy! Have a brilliant afternoon guys!



Lexi is excited about seeing the Bluebirds play this afternoon, especially her favourite players daddy Craig and goalkeeper David Marshall. She enjoys swimming in her spare time and her favourite subject at school is P.E. Enjoy your day Lexi!



Archie can't wait to watch the Bluebirds this afternoon and is especially excited to see his favourite player – daddy Kevin! Have a great afternoon Archie!



Leading out our opponents this afternoon is **Colbie Eckersley**. Colbie goes to Hindley Green C.P School and his favourite Trotters are Chris Eagles and Sam Ricketts. He enjoys football, swimming and reading and is especially excited to be Bolton mascot this afternoon.



We hope the six guys and girls have an enjoyable and memorable day with us at Cardiff City Stadium – just as Freya and Blake did last time out against Charlton!



CITY NEWS

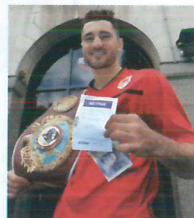


POST-MATCH REQUEST: STAY OFF THE PITCH

Cardiff City Football Club kindly asks all supporters to refrain from celebrating on the pitch at any time after the game today. This will allow the much anticipated Championship trophy presentation ceremony to run as planned following the final whistle, while maintaining a safe environment for the players and their families to enjoy. Thank you.

CLEV PUTS SMART MONEY ON CITY

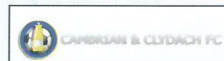
When the WBO Light Heavyweight Champion of the World says something's going to happen, people tend to take note. That was certainly the case when Cardiff City's very own Nathan Cleverly popped into the bookies to put £100 on the Bluebirds retaining their newly acquired Premier League status come the end of the 2013/14 campaign. Cheers for your continued support Clev; congratulations on last weekend's superb title defence and we'll see you at half-time for the 50/50 draw.



MALAYSIAN PRESS WELCOME

This afternoon we are delighted to welcome members of the Malaysian national press to Cardiff City Stadium. Cardiff City Football Club have been well represented in the press in Malaysia over the last few years thanks to our connections via the Berjaya Group. Now, with the global focus of the Premier League, we look forward to strengthening our relationships further in the months ahead. Today we welcome Wong Kouk Kang of **Sin Chew Daily**, Wan Mohd Fakhrul Anwar Bin Wan Bakar of **Berita Harian**, Kng Zheng Guan of **The Star**, Chan Wai Kong of **New Straits Times** and Mr. Norzie Mohd. Khasbi of **Utusan Malaysia**, giving our esteemed visitors a tour of the facilities here ahead of the game before they get to work covering the match. Welcome all.

HALF-TIME STARS!



Joining us pitch-side today as our **Half-Time Stars** are **Cambrian & Clydach Vale Boys & Girls Club** and **Valley Pontypridd U12s**.

Cambrian & Clydach have an extensive community programme, an UEFA Academy Structure and a successful Senior Team in the Welsh League. Today their U9s squad coached by Ian Lewis, Paul Price and Darren Owen are being rewarded for a terrific season. For more information on the Club, visit www.cambrianfc.co.uk

Valleys Pontypridd Girls U12s provide the opportunity for girls of all ages to enjoy and participate in football throughout the Rhondda Cynon Taff areas. Recently they've won the Central Region Futsal Championship and South Wales Girls League, while they finished runners-up in the North Division and are currently second in the SWGL U12 Division One this season. Please contact **Gail Powell** on **07557 092543** for more information.

SUPER FANS!

Pictured here are three City supporters who go above and beyond for the Bluebirds' cause! **Ed** and **Edwin** regularly travel from the Netherlands to support the boys, while **John O'Neill** reminisces about the days of Madrid in his specially built Bluebirds bar at home! We hope you enjoy the celebrations over the next few weeks gents.



PITCH-SIDE PARADES

Joining us for pitch-side parades today are **Palmerston Primary School** (sponsored by **Buzz Wales**) and **AFC Whitchurch U8s Blues** (sponsored by **COS Group**).

buzz wales.com
the voice of contact centres



Palmerston Primary have a boys, girls and disability team, while Whitchurch are preparing for their step up to U9 level next season. To find out more about either side, email kellyreardonbrown@cardiffcityfc.co.uk

IN LOVING MEMORY

ASHTON EDMUNDS

Cardiff City Football Club was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of 8 year old Ashton Edmunds on Friday, 29th March. Ashton, who had been suffering with meningitis, was a pupil at Millbank Primary School and played for local side RAGA FC Under 8s. He was a big Cardiff City fan and his favourite player was Peter Whittingham. His family join us for this afternoon's game and our heartfelt sympathies are with them at this very sad time.



TONY CARTER

It was with regret that we learned recently of the passing of lifelong City fan Tony Carter at the age of 84 following a short illness. Tony attended games with his son David and brothers Bernard and Maurice, before passing on the torch to his two grandchildren. His father's 1927 Cup Final ticket sits proudly on their mantelpiece. Cardiff City Football Club passes on its sincere condolences to Tony's family.



PAUL WARE

It was with sadness that the Club learned earlier this month of the passing of one-time Bluebird Paul Ware at the age of 42. Paul spent time on loan at Ninian Park during the 1996-97 season, having previously played for Stoke City and Stockport County. We offer our sympathies to Paul's family, friends and team-mates.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

JOSEPH PENN-HARRIS

Celebrating his 8th birthday with us this afternoon is Joseph Penn-Harris. Joseph goes to Abercanaid Community School and his favourite City stars are Craig Bellamy and Peter Whittingham. He loves football, playing on his Xbox and his message today reads: "Happy 8th Birthday Joseph, love from all your family and friends xxx"



LEWYS THOMAS

Celebrating his 7th birthday with us at Cardiff City Stadium this afternoon is Lewys Thomas. Lewys goes to Brynmenyn Primary School and his favourite City star is Craig Bellamy. He enjoys rugby (plays for Skylander Giants), football and swimming and his message today reads: "Happy Birthday Lewys, hope you enjoy your day, love all your family xxx".



PHIL NORMAN

"Happy 60th Birthday to my special husband Phil Norman who has been a dedicated Cardiff City Fan for 50 years!! His birthday has been made extra special with the celebratory promotion news this week, a very proud supporter! Love Suzie x"



STEPHEN MUMFORD

"Happy Birthday to lifelong supporter Stephen Mumford - enjoy the last game in the Championship! From Jayne, Lloyd and Matthew xxx"



LIAM ARLOTT

"Happy 12th Birthday to Liam Arlott. Hope you enjoy next season as much as this, love from Mum, Nan, Grandad, Uncle Philip and Maria xxx"



RACHEL DEANS

"Happy Birthday Rachel Deans! Have a brilliant day, love Stacy and Rhys xxx"



PLAYER EXPERIENCE QUIZ

Congratulations to the winner of our latest Player Experience Quiz – **Stephen Kelleher**. Stephen and a guest are enjoying Sony Suite hospitality this afternoon in addition to a Player gift voucher and behind the scenes access. We hope you have a terrific afternoon at Cardiff City Stadium.

Player 
Experience

THE ACADEMY LOTTERIES

50/50 WINNERS: CHARLTON ATHLETIC

Congratulations to the winners of our Charlton Athletic 50/50 draw. Winning names and numbers are as follows:

1st Prize: RED 03853, £1,246 - **I. Nash**

2nd Prize: BLUE 00091, £124 -
Tony Mack

3rd Prize: Signed Ball - **Andrew Childs**

We are very pleased to announce that **Brains** continue as the draw's sponsor for the 2012/13 season. Please refer to the back of your Fifty-Fifty ticket – available from vendors around the Stadium – for our match-day promotional offer. All Fifty-Fifty and Academy Foundation results can be found on the official Club website – www.cardiffcityfc.co.uk. For enquiries, email clive.hall@cardiffcityfc.co.uk

NEW ARRIVALS!

AARON FRICKER

CF11 was thrilled to learn of the arrival of a new Bluebird recently – baby Aaron Fricker. Our congratulations go out to mum Louise and dad Mike for the birth of Aaron on January 18th, who is growing well and is already fitting his Cardiff baby-grow even though it's size '6 months'! Looks like a midfielder in the making to us.



ALYS JONES

Pictured here with mum Claire and dad Alex is 7 month old Alys Jones. Alys has already been to five City games this season despite living with mum and dad in Derby! Her City hat has proven a lucky charm so far with her not having witnessed a defeat while wearing it! Here's hoping she's got in on again this afternoon!



ALAN WRIGHT



OFFICIAL SPONSORS OF FANS MAN OF THE MATCH

**WINNER RECEIVES
TWO HOSPITALITY PASSES
TO CAPTAIN'S SUITE**



**CHARLTON
M.O.M**

BACK TO THE FUTURE

REACHING THE TOP FLIGHT 1960 FASHION BY TERRY GRANDIN

Congratulations to the players, manager and staff for deservedly winning promotion this season, but is it really 53 years since that victory over Aston Villa last took us up to the top flight?

The summer of 1959 had been quiet as far as City manager Bill Jones was concerned. Only two players, Steve Mokone and Johnny Watkins joined the club as Jones reckoned he had the makings of a

good season having finished in ninth place in 1958-59. Watkins came to Ninian Park from Bristol City for a very modest £2,500 and he would prove to be a very astute signing, netting fifteen goals in an ever-present season.

Young reserve player Graham Moore scored four times in a public trial pre-season match and was selected to start along with Mokone and Watkins



for the opening home game against Liverpool in that Golden Jubilee 1959-60 season. A crowd of 32,000 watched as Mokone opened the scoring but by half-time City were 2-1 down thanks to a brace of own goals from skipper Danny Malloy. Moore equalised soon after the break and then Watkins fired in a left-footed pile-driver from fifteen yards to set City off with a victory.

Five wins in the next seven matches, including a 2-0 success over Derby, where Watkins was once again on target along with hard-working wing half Colin Baker, had City up amongst the pace-setters. Alan Durban, an 18-year-old inside forward, made his City debut in that match and he would go on to play over 300 games for the Rams in a long career.

A 4-1 defeat at home to Rotherham in September was a temporary set-back, but with Derek Tapscott scoring regularly the omens were good that this was going to be a special year. Tappy was a nightmare for defenders and he would end the season as leading scorer with twenty goals from thirty five matches. In October, City fulfilled a league fixture at Huddersfield Town without three regulars, Alan Harrington, Derrick Sullivan and Graham Moore who were all playing for Wales against England at Ninian Park the same day. Yet they were still good enough to come away from Leeds Road with a 1-0 victory thanks to a Tapscott goal, though they did have a bit of luck as a teenage Denis Law missed a penalty for the home side.

A trip to Liverpool soon followed. They had just appointed Bill Shankly as their manager but he was left shell-shocked as City stormed to a 4-0 Anfield victory with Tapscott (2), Watkins and Joe Bonson on target. An unbeaten run of ten matches, which also saw the introduction of teenager Steve Gammon kept City on course and they appeared on target for the Second Division championship following a spectacular 4-3 victory at Leyton Orient that marked the debut of young Barry Hole.

City and Aston Villa had by now opened up an eight point gap at the top of the table and a 1-0 win at Stoke, where full back Trevor Peck made an appearance, set up that mouth-watering clash of the titans when over the Easter period, Villa came to Ninian Park.

Cardiff City were celebrating fifty years as a professional club and Villa had been the first team

to play at Ninian Park back in September 1910 when the ground was officially opened. The only goal of the game came in the twelfth minute. Brian Walsh beat his man from just in front of the dugout and rolled the ball down the line for Colin Hudson. Rock, as he was known, crossed the ball into the path of Moore who hammered his shot high into the roof of the net. Promotion was secured and at the end of the game with the crowd on the pitch, the players appeared up in the grandstand as their names were called out.

Unfortunately, unlike the 2012-13 side, City missed the chance of claiming the title by only taking two points from the final three games, but they did finish the season with ninety league goals and only seven league defeats, the best in the division. Sadly, a number of the heroes from that season are no longer with us, while skipper Danny Malloy was unable to make the trip down from his Scotland home due to ill health.

However, at this afternoon's match we are honoured to welcome Alan Harrington, Colin Baker, Barry Hole, Johnny Watkins, Alan Durban, Steve Gammon and Trevor Peck, all stalwarts of the 1959-60 season when we stormed our way up to the top flight. It really is 53 years since we last earned our place in the top division. Today we have a wonderful opportunity to show our appreciation to a small group of the players who took us there in such entertaining fashion all those years ago. They deserve it.



NPOWER CHAMPIONSHIP

Cardiff City

Cardiff Town

TUESDAY 16TH APRIL 7.45PM Full Attendance 26,338



Cardiff City clinched promotion on a historic night at Cardiff City Stadium, the crucial point propelling the Bluebirds to the top Division for the first time in fifty-one years. Ricardo Fuller, the most dangerous player for the visitors, opened the shooting contest from long range inside the fourth minute, but neither goalkeeper was truly tested throughout. Johnnie Jackson's long range free kick crashed against the post for the visitors, while Kim Bo-Kyung, who has emerged as a key player of late, responded with his own whipped dead ball that went agonisingly wide.

Andrew Taylor and Leon Barnett both tested with driven shots from range after the break, whilst Fuller brought the best out of Marshall from just inside the area. Craig Noone then falsely raised the roof, converting a point-blank header that was subsequently deemed offside. But the celebrations were merely delayed, the final whistle ending a hard fought draw and earning Cardiff City promotion to the Premier League.

by Liam Jones

FANS SAY

"I was two years old when we last played in the top division. The lows have been many and the highs very few. I'm proud of my Club and the way we got there." – Andrew Thomas

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MALKY

"I'm very proud of the Football Club tonight. It's an occasion which the fans of this Football Club have waited a long time for. Hopefully tonight goes some way to repaying that faith."

POWELL

"I hope they make a real fist of it because Cardiff and Swansea in the Premier League is going to be something! We've taken four points off Cardiff so I'm very pleased with the display tonight."

MARSHALL

"I think Watford were losing and we heard a roar, but I thought that was just our fans trying to keep us going for the 0-0. We needed a point, we got it and it's brilliant."



Post-match reaction from Malky Mackay, Chris Powell, Mark Hudson and Craig Bellamy on Cardiff City Player

CARDIFF CITY
Player

Cardiff City: Marshall, McNaughton, Taylor, Turner, Barnett, Kim Bo-Kyung, Noone (Smith), Gunnarsson, Mutch, Gestede, Bellamy. Subs not used: Lewis, Nugent, Whittingham, Cowie, Conway, Mason.

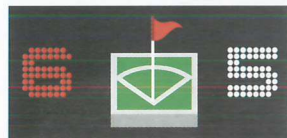


Charlton Athletic: Hamer, Morrison, Wiggins, Solly, Dervite, Hughes (Gower), Jackson, Pritchard (Green), Harriotts, Kermorgant, Fuller (Obika). Subs not used: Button, Taylor, Wilson, Kerkar.

THE BREAK



REFEREE: S. Mathieson



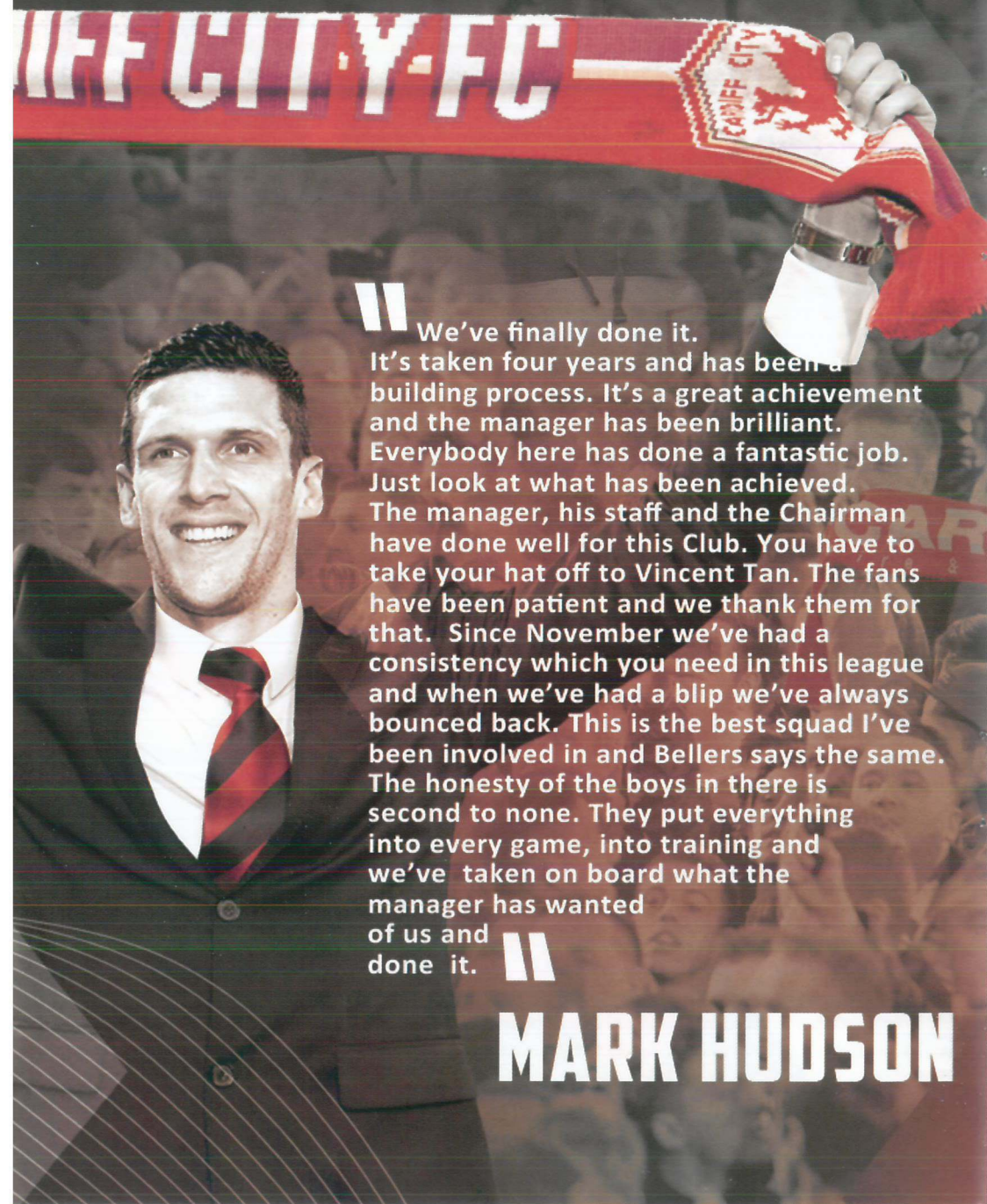
POSSESSION



SHOTS

14 ON 9
5 OFF 4





“ We’ve finally done it. It’s taken four years and has been a building process. It’s a great achievement and the manager has been brilliant. Everybody here has done a fantastic job. Just look at what has been achieved. The manager, his staff and the Chairman have done well for this Club. You have to take your hat off to Vincent Tan. The fans have been patient and we thank them for that. Since November we’ve had a consistency which you need in this league and when we’ve had a blip we’ve always bounced back. This is the best squad I’ve been involved in and Bellers says the same. The honesty of the boys in there is second to none. They put everything into every game, into training and we’ve taken on board what the manager has wanted of us and done it. ”

MARK HUDSON

A full-page photograph of Craig Bellamy, a footballer, wearing a red jersey with "Malaysia" printed on the front. He has his arms raised in a celebratory gesture, showing tattoos on both forearms. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators.

“When I saw the referee wave the linesmen and keeper over before the final whistle, I dropped to my knees: firstly because I was exhausted and secondly due to utter relief. It’s something that I just can’t explain, but I’m so grateful to have been able to play a small part in what is a huge time in this club’s history. This is where we’re from; we wear our heart on my sleeve. I feel so privileged to have done it here, where the people I love most are nearby. I spoke to my father after the game, and he told me that he would now die a happy man. “The Premier League will make us a worldwide club. The Championship doesn’t, and that’s a fact. When you take that step up to the Premier League, you will be watched worldwide will allow the club to really grow. Hopefully we’re able to really

“
CRAIG BELLAMY

NPOWER CHAMPIONSHIP

Cardiff City

Edgar (90+1')

Burnley

Conway (27')

Cardiff City

1

1

SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 12.45PM Full Attendance 13,264



Craig Conway's first half strike was enough for City to secure a 1-1 draw at Burnley and clinch the Championship trophy in the process. The only sour note of the first half for the Welsh side were two ugly arms thrown in Kim Bo-Kyung's direction by Burnley's Ross Wallace, the one-cap Scotland international incredibly lucky not to have taken an early shower.

Knowing what was at stake, the second half was mostly about keeping possession for the Bluebirds. It was a plan which frustrated their hosts to no end – that was until they did grab a late equaliser, David Edgar netting in injury time not long after a wonder save from David Marshall had denied Danny Ings. But it did nothing to hamper the celebrations that would ensue in front of the away end at Turf Moor, as Malky Mackay's side ensured some Football League silverware would soon be heading across the Severn Bridge and into CF11.

by Oliver Roderick

FANS SAY

"We've now achieved what so many people thought would be impossible for Cardiff City Football Club." – Sharon Lewis

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11,629

1,635

MALKY

"It was a tremendous feeling on Tuesday night, but for us to go and win the title is something that we spoke about within a day. We wanted to go and get the boys their medals."

DYCHE

"I knew Malky would go hard and their team wouldn't back off. They've got some real talent there. They've done a great job, it must be said – Malky, his troops, his staff, his players."

McNAUGHTON

"We've come so close before. Taking that extra step feels fantastic. I'm just chuffed for the fans. They have been waiting so long for this moment."



See post-match reaction of this game from
Malky Mackay and
Sean Dyche on
Cardiff City Player

CARDIFF CITY
Player ➔

Burnley: Grant (GK), ■ Trippier,
Lafferty, Shackell (c), Long,
McCann, Wallace (Paterson),
■ Marney (Treacy), Stanislas
(Edgar), Vokes, Ings.
Subs not used: Jensen
(GK), O'Neill, Bartley,
Stock.

Cardiff City:
Marshall (GK),
McNaughton, Taylor (c),
Turner, Barnett, Conway,
■ Kim, Noone (Bellamy),
Gunnarsson, Mutch (Cowie), Gestede.
Subs not used: Lewis (GK), Nugent,
Whittingham, Lappin, Mason.

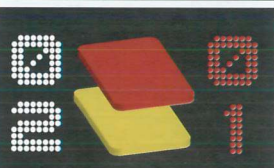
THE BREAK



REFEREE: S. Attwell



POSSESSION



SHOTS

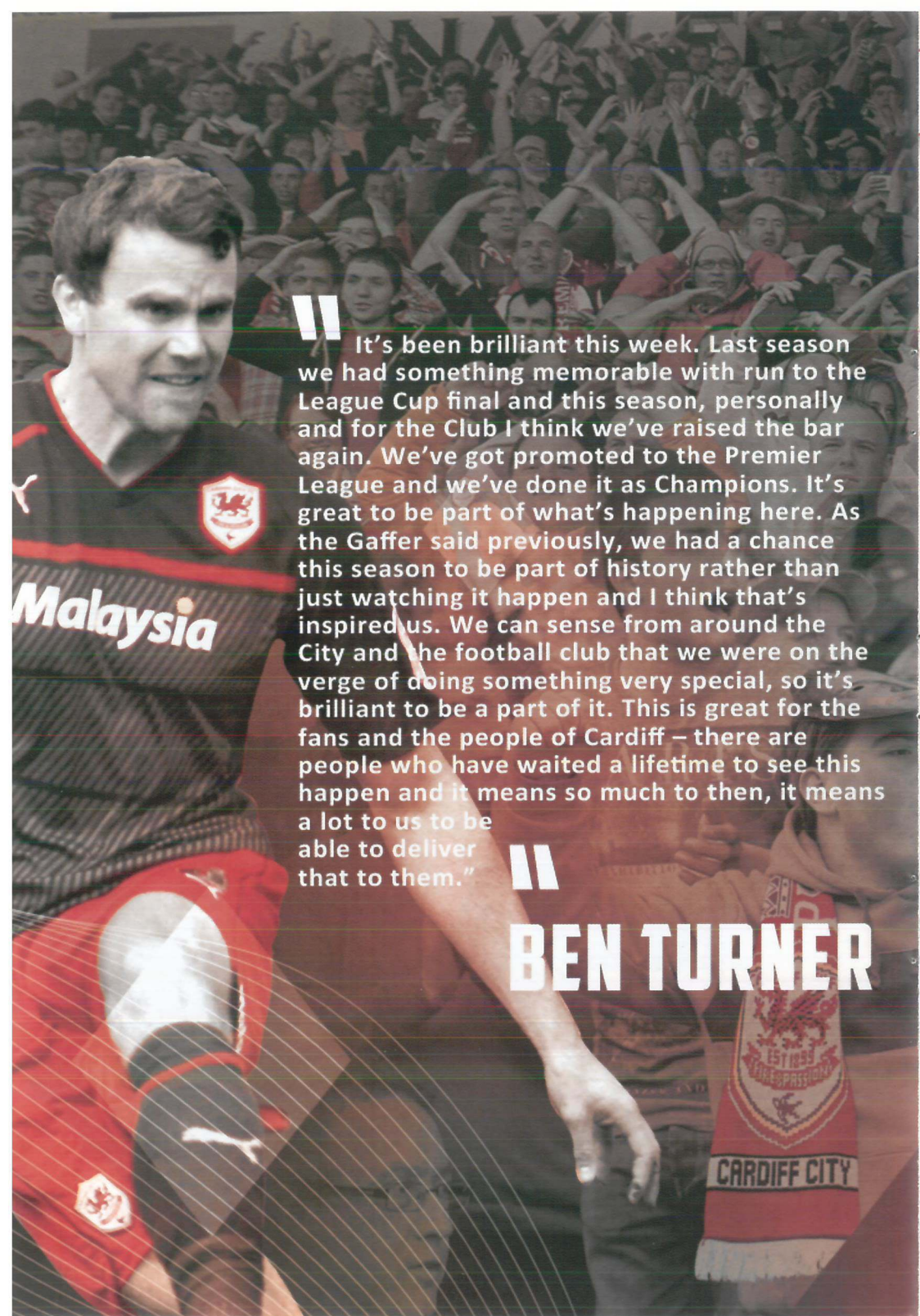


“

It's been brilliant this week. Last season we had something memorable with run to the League Cup final and this season, personally and for the Club I think we've raised the bar again. We've got promoted to the Premier League and we've done it as Champions. It's great to be part of what's happening here. As the Gaffer said previously, we had a chance this season to be part of history rather than just watching it happen and I think that's inspired us. We can sense from around the City and the football club that we were on the verge of doing something very special, so it's brilliant to be a part of it. This is great for the fans and the people of Cardiff – there are people who have waited a lifetime to see this happen and it means so much to then, it means a lot to us to be able to deliver that to them.”

”

BEN TURNER





“ It felt great to win it with two games left. It’s an unbelievable feeling. I’m thrilled to have stayed and had this experience; it was great to make sure of promotion at home and now we have the title. We have earned a place at Premier level and went out as a group after the match against Charlton. But we still knew what had to be done and the job wasn’t finished. It was important we celebrated promotion, but then quickly refocused because we all wanted to go on and win the League. I’d delighted we’ve now done that. It’s unbelievable. It’s been a long season but it’s great to win it with two games to spare. The manager said we deserve it and to remember days like this as a lot of people go through their careers without winning anything. We are lucky enough to be part of it. It means so much to everyone

“
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DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

with Sam Roberts

For regularly updated Development and Academy information, visit www.cardiffcityfc.co.uk

A SEASON OF POSITIVES FOR DVP

In a campaign that saw thirty-eight different players feature, as well as double wins over local rivals Swansea City and Bristol City, Cardiff City's Development side finished their first Professional Development League (Division Two South) season in second position.

Kevin Cooper's men began 2013 halfway through their twenty game season with fifteen points on the board and six points off the summit. Incredible home form during the first few months had eased City DVP's struggles away from Cardiff City Stadium. A phenomenal run of nine wins from their remaining ten games after the New Year, including five wins from six games away from home, meant City only missed out on top spot in the southern section of Professional Development League Division Two on goal difference.

Dubbed by Malky Mackay as a future Cardiff City Captain, **Ben Nugent** began the season as captain of Cooper's team. Impressive displays followed and after injuries to first team regulars Ben Turner and Mark Hudson, the Gaffer had no qualms in calling 'Nuge' up to his Championship squad. The nineteen-year-old has since gone on to make ten league appearances this campaign for City's League winning squad.

Etien Velikonja top-scored for the Development side with thirteen league goals, while the introduction of former Welsh Premier League striker **Rhys Healey** undoubtedly helped boost City in the goal-scoring charts in the season's home stretch with the striker scoring five times in seven appearances. A special mention has to go to central defender **Adeleji Oshilaja**, who was the only player to compete in all twenty games of the

season for City, playing every single minute for Cooper's side. Deji also performed admirably in our F.A. Cup third round tie at Macclesfield in January with a number of DVP team-mates.

During the course of the season, City's young stars scored some exquisite goals. **Gethyn Hill** kicked off the campaign against Brighton & Hove Albion with a thirty yard volley that stunned the guests, while four starts for experienced winger Craig Conway on his road back to first team fitness saw the Scot fire home two incredible goals against Charlton and Swansea. Fellow first teamer **Joe Ralls'** thirty yard drive against then league leaders Brentford helped continue City's rise up the table, while It took defender

Declan John just one minute after returning from injury against Bristol City to score an incredible left footed volley to keep City on track for a top two spot. Promising winger **Kadeem Harris** (pictured) was another whose injury-blighted season had sparkling moments of brilliance, capped by a well taken goal against Ipswich Town in March.

A second place finish for City DVP will see them face off against the winners of the Northern section – Leicester City – in the upcoming end of season Play-Offs next month. Further details of this game will be published on the official Cardiff City website – www.cardiffcityfc.co.uk – as they become available.



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THE CHAMPIONSHIP

by Will Pallot

RELENTLESS CONSISTENCY

'Relentless' was the word that Malky Mackay used to describe his Cardiff City side's pursuit of the Championship title over the course of this campaign. Now that that's been accomplished, today is the day that the players, fans and staff alike can all revel in their achievements as the trophy will finally be held aloft in the Capital of Wales.

It's been a long time coming too. City have refused to let go of that top spot in the division since a 2-1 away win over **Barnsley** restored our position there back on 24th November 2012. In doing so, the squad have shown remarkable consistency – a trait which has become another buzz word in the capital. While all around us have faltered, our place at the top has been the only constant in an otherwise topsy-turvy division.

A quick glance at the table on the day that we seized hold of first place, over five months ago, provides a perfect illustration of our status as the anomaly of the division. While the Bluebirds have been immovable at the top, the fortunes of those below us have varied almost immeasurably since that day.

The side we overtook by one point at the time were **Crystal Palace**, who had just seen a fourteen match unbeaten run put to an end by **Leeds United**. Twenty-six games on, and we are now eighteen points above the Eagles whose Play-Off ambitions still lie in the balance with no wins in their last seven Championship games.

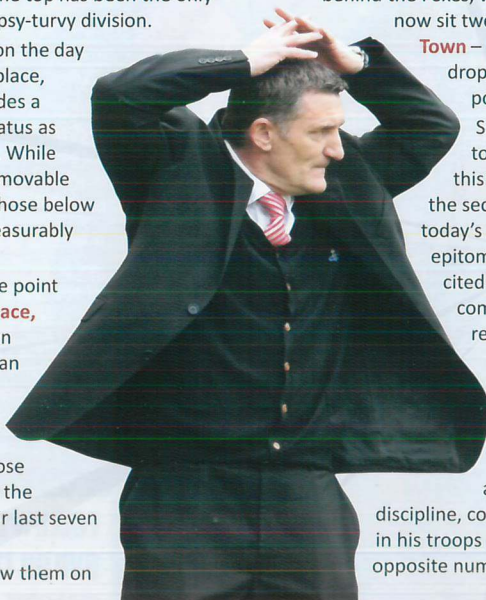
The two teams directly below them on

that day were **Leicester City** and **Middlesbrough**, both of whom have also failed to continue their momentum for the entirety of the campaign. Leicester, then in third, were still in and around the top two until mid-February and were unanimously considered to be our main promotion rivals when we did battle at King Power Stadium just before Christmas. However, their draw at Selhurst Park last Saturday saw them drop out of the top six altogether – with a final day bout for the Play-Offs against East Midlands rivals Nottingham Forest looking on the cards.

But it's been even worse for Tony Mowbray's (pictured) **Middlesbrough** who took up fourth place, only a point behind the Foxes, when we seized top spot. They now sit twelfth – just a point above **Ipswich Town** – who were firmly seated in the drop-zone with less than half of Boro's points haul at the end of November!

So, consistency has been very hard to come by for almost every team in this league, but some have discovered the secret at just the right moment – and today's visitors **Bolton Wanderers** epitomise that. Dougie Freedman has cited the Trotters' hard work and commitment to the cause as they've recently staked a solid claim for a top six finish. There's no questioning the impact that Freedman has had on a side that were down in twentieth place as recently as February, as the Scotsman has instilled

discipline, consistency and a winning attitude in his troops in a very similar manner to his opposite number today.



»» LEADING SCORERS

1		2		3		4		5	
									
	29		27		25		20		20

» GLENN MURRAY » JORDAN RHODES » CHARLIE AUSTIN » MATEJ VYDRA » CHRIS WOOD

ONE MORE RECORD?

A statistical look at City's record points haul

From our ten match unbeaten home run at the beginning of the campaign, to the biggest ever CCS crowd that watched us beat Forest two weeks ago, City have set several personal bests in the process of winning the title this year. But with only two matches remaining, just two more points would see this side make more history.

This year's first place finish sees us continue a sequence in which we have earned promotion in every year ending in three going back to 1983! And it was in that particular year that the final target that we're striving for was set – our highest ever league points tally.

Eighty-six points were notched up that season under Len Ashurst, but even that wasn't enough to secure top spot as we finished second to **Portsmouth**, going up to the old Division 2 thanks in part to the twenty-six league and cup goals scored by **Jeff Hemmerman**.

A decade later and promotion was tasted again in the capital. In fact, our first place finish in 1992/93 was the last time that we lifted a league-winning trophy until this very day. Advancing to Division 2 once more, this time with the late **Eddie**

May at the helm, our final tally was eighty-three points as we went up alongside **Wrexham, Barnet** and **York City**.

As for the 2002/03 campaign, despite managing to clinch promotion to the second tier where we would remain for the next ten years, we actually set a lower points tally than we had in the previous year.

The lottery of the Play-Offs decided both seasons as defeat to Stoke City in the semi-finals in 2001/02 was made up for with victories over **Bristol City** and then **Queen's Park Rangers** at Millennium Stadium the following year.

This season our Club has re-written the history books from start to finish, and beating that eighty-six points haul today would round off a record breaking year in South Wales in the most fitting of styles.

LATEST RESULTS

Staurday, 20th April

Birmingham City 1 – 0 Leeds Utd
Burnley 1 – 1 Cardiff City
Bolton Wanderers 2 – 1 Middlesbrough
Brighton & Hove Albion 6 – 1 Blackpool
Charlton Athletic 2 – 1 Wolves
Crystal Palace 2 – 2 Leicester City
Derby County 3 – 1 Peterborough Utd
Huddersfield Town 3 – 0 Millwall
Nottingham Forest 0 – 0 Barnsley
Sheffield Wed 1 – 1 Ipswich Town
Watford 4 – 0 Blackburn Rovers

WEEKEND FIXTURES

(All fixtures kick-off at 3.00pm unless otherwise stated)

Barnsley v Hull City
Blackburn Rovers v Crystal Palace
Blackpool v Derby County
Bristol City v Huddersfield Town
Cardiff City v Bolton Wanderers
Ipswich Town v Birmingham City
Leeds United v Brighton & Hove Albion
Leicester City v Watford (Friday)
Middlesbrough v Charlton Athletic
Millwall v Nottingham Forest
Peterborough Utd v Sheffield Wed (5.20pm)
Wolves v Burnley

FINAL DAY

Saturday, 4th May

(All fixtures kick-off at 12.45pm)

Birmingham City v Blackburn Rovers
Bolton Wanderers v Blackpool
Brighton & Hove Albion v Wolves
Burnley v Ipswich Town
Charlton Athletic v Bristol City
Crystal Palace v Peterborough Utd
Derby County v Millwall
Huddersfield Town v Barnsley
Hull City v Cardiff City
Nottingham Forest v Leicester City
Sheffield Wed v Middlesbrough
Watford v Leeds Utd

2012/13 NPOWER CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE TABLE

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	Pts
1	Cardiff City	44	25	10	9	27	85
2	Hull City	44	24	6	14	11	78
3	Watford	44	22	8	14	27	74
4	Brighton	44	17	18	9	23	69
5	Crystal Palace	43	18	13	12	10	67
6	Bolton	44	18	12	14	8	66
7	Leicester City	44	18	11	15	23	65
8	Nottm Forest	44	16	16	12	4	64
9	Charlton	44	16	13	15	3	61
10	Birmingham	44	15	15	14	-4	60
11	Derby County	44	15	13	16	3	58
12	Middlesbrough	44	18	4	22	-7	58
13	Leeds United	44	16	10	18	-9	58
14	Ipswich Town	44	15	12	17	-13	57
15	Blackburn	44	14	14	16	-7	56
16	Burnley	44	14	13	17	-1	55
17	Blackpool	44	13	16	15	-2	55
18	Millwall	43	15	10	18	-9	55
19	Sheffield Wed	44	15	10	19	-9	55
20	Huddersfield	44	14	12	18	-22	54
21	Peterborough	44	14	9	21	-9	51
22	Wolves	44	14	9	21	-11	51
23	Barnsley	44	13	12	19	-16	51
24	Bristol City	44	11	8	25	-20	41

DETAILS PRIOR TO THIS WEEKEND'S GAMES

WE'VE EARNED THE RIGHT

We planned it this way, of course. Okay, maybe not predicting the league being won with a fortnight to go, but in having full faith in Malky Mackay and his staff and players to give us every chance of gunning for glory at the end of the season, making it all the more fitting to end our run of 2012/13 CF11 covers and features with the man himself.

Speaking to Barrie McAuliffe, the Cardiff City boss reflected on a big season this week, showing the class we all know he has in thanking those behind the scenes and in the stands who played a part. Let's get to it!

CF11: It's been written at times that the best way to get promoted is via the play-offs due to the big crowd etcetera at Wembley. We're guessing that after the last few weeks – and knowing what's still to come – you may be inclined to disagree with that slightly.

MALKY: Very much so. I was lucky enough to win the division with Norwich and then managed to get promoted twice with West Ham and Watford. Winning that final, if you're guaranteed at Wembley – or at the Millennium Stadium, which is where I did it was incredible, it's like winning a Cup Final. But to have the accolade of being named the best team in the division, especially after us being up there for so long is a really nice feeling – even more so actually having

tied it up with two weeks to go. What my players and staff have achieved fills me with so much pride. It's been a tough ask and is something that comes with its own pressures, but to go and win the title outright, to get that medal and to see my players lift the trophy is something that will be very special indeed.

CF11: We've had to contend with the pressures of being told the job was done far before it was, which must have added to the need for calm heads inside the training ground.

MALKY: Some people I suppose get blasé, perhaps looking at a headline statement without really thinking of the impact of what would happen if the team for one second took their eye off the ball, becoming blasé themselves. We all know it can bite you, causing teams to go on a downward spiral, starting a poor run that's hard to get out of. It's why as a group we've always stressed the importance of only looking at the team that's ahead of you, preparing properly and acting like a professional. Again, it's something that the players and staff here, including all the staff at the stadium, have done, trying all the while to maintain standards. There are some excellent professionals at this club, vocational people who are desperate to be here, working for the same cause. When everyone pushes in the same direction it makes a big difference.



CF11: You're the man in the changing room before a game, looking at the players in the eye. The mix of experience, calm heads and youthful desire has been spot on.

MALKY: That's the one thing I'm most pleased of, the fact that they integrated so well. There's a real mixture of experience, winners – and people who have been through similar experiences and lost. The seasoned professionals and youngsters here, coming in fresh for the first time, all of them look up and see a calmness from the staff, an assurance and leadership that lets them know that they are treated like men with respect. There's a lot of trust that benefits everyone and can in time give its own reward, which is what we've seen this year.

CF11: History will remember our promotion coming for the result against Charlton, but maybe not some of the intricacies. One moment that stood out from the press box was the view of Chris Powell coming over to you. To be fair he was a class act.

MALKY: Chris is a good friend of mine and when David Kerslake heard that the Watford result had finished and came up to me to say, "It's finished, we're up", Chris heard that and came over. There was still a minute and a half to go, but we both stood there talking about old times, sharing a room when we were at West Ham and talking about if we'd go into management and what we'd do if we did – lost in that while the game was still going on! He's a top man and has done well as a manager; above all of that a good friend, showing a real touch of class on the night and saying some really nice things.

CF11: Then the place erupted, two sessions of fans streaming on. They couldn't contain the emotion, understandably!

MALKY: It was their night and for that moment – for that game – it was their pitch. All of us here working for the club at the moment, staff and directors are mere custodians. For the Charlton



game, that was their night, while we'll have the chance after the game today to do our walk around, lift the trophy and to take it all in. I've seen some of the photos from last Tuesday night and you can't see a blade of grass. There are some real iconic photos, including emotive images of the lads being lifted and the steam from so many people. Those are nights in a million and I told the lads, even on Saturday at Burnley after the game, that these are the days to remember because they don't come along too often. Most people watch history happen, but they've had what so many don't, being able to create some history. I told them to remember their families and the sacrifices their families have made for them, along with the work and effort that they've all put in. Then, to stand in front of the travelling fans at Burnley, going over and going bonkers with them. It was something truly special.

CF11: It has to be said of the post-match events. You got some air!! The lads got you pretty high up at one point!

MALKY: By the third one I was really worried, but thank God that Ben Turner and Rudy Gestede were there, because at one point I'm thinking if Craig Noone and Craig Bellamy are under me I've got problems here! Jokes aside it was lovely, added to by the fans who travelled to see us get that point to win the whole thing. The way that the players responded and interacted shows that there's a real mutual respect there, something the group who have been here the last two years have regularly witnessed. The fans have so much passion home and away, at times making the stadium here a fortress which has been a big help. To see so many smiling faces was exceptional.

CF11: And again, another mate on the side-lines in Sean Dyche offering his congratulations.

MALKY: I'm delighted for him too, having gone in there and doing well at Burnley. He's a good friend of mine and we had a good chat at the end. After five minutes into the game he said to me, "I thought you lot would have come up here and taken your foot off the pedal, but I've realised that's not the case!" In the scheme of things I want to win every game, but am pleased that he got a point, possibly one that could see his side stay up.

CF11: The games keep coming. It's Bolton today in a season that still has a lot to play for.

MALKY: There is and as far as we're concerned, nothing changes. We'll prepare the same, knowing that there's an awful lot at stake for many teams in the division. It would be remiss of us to switch off and to be fair Dougie won't be expecting that from us today.

CF11: It's going to the wire at both ends, isn't it?

MALKY: I think it'll go to next week in terms of





top and bottom, which is part of what makes this league so exciting. Yes, it's nice to be involved having taken care of our own business already, but we'll still look to play our part, after which we'll see how things develop with results, seeing who makes the play-offs and more.

CF11: To the occasion for a moment, it's fitting that we're joined by representatives of the promotion squad from the 1959/60 season, the last team to reach the top flight for Cardiff City.

MALKY: Absolutely, it's great that fans can show their appreciation for those guys, who will remain Cardiff City legends from that era. In years to come the lads who did it this year can come back themselves, but for now I'll enjoy getting to see the '59/60 squad welcome us out and it's fitting that they'll be there, enjoying the respect and warmth of the crowd for their place in our history. It's a special day for the city of Cardiff to see this, as we are an inclusive club.

CF11: Huds has spoken of his excitement for the moment he gets to place his hands on those handles after the game. He can't wait to raise the Football League trophy for Cardiff City.

MALKY: It's every boys dream isn't it and the players thoroughly deserve it, having been ultimate professionals all season and for working so hard. Come full time, after the game when the lads take to the stage, again it's a moment that they'll never forget. There'll be plenty of footage, while the medal will be the ultimate reminder for years to come.

CF11: The diary for coming weeks is a little bit jammed, with dinners, parties and the matter of that open top bus!

MALKY: There's a lot going on, but the city has waited a long time for this and for a couple of weeks for us to honour various people and going places, allowing the fans and South Wales to see various events ... including the big shiny trophy, it's not a big ask, is it?

CF11: Are you going to take it home?

MALKY: Maybe not me (*laughs*). I might have Callum [Malky's son] take it home as I'm not sure where Pamela [his wife] would put it. I imagine Callum and Francesca [his daughter] will sleep with it!

CF11: Once the next two games are done, plus all of the added schedule, you'll be looking forward to a small break before the work kicks back in.

MALKY: It'll be good to take a small holiday to recharge the batteries. Obviously there's a lot of work to do, but I'll enjoy the chance to switch off for a couple of days before the fixtures are launched and the reality of the achievement really sinks in! There are many good people here who deserve a good rest ahead of what will be an awful lot of work for the new season. It'll be good to take some time following the various expectations and pressures that we've had.

CF11: Not to get too far ahead, but looking at how you'll work on adding to the squad. We are sure that the same rules apply in terms of getting the best possible mix.

MALKY: It's like anything, we have to try and take the next steps to improve, just like we have over the last two years. The fundamentals will stay the same, as does the way we work. Players, if they're already here or new faces will buy into that and there will be a lot of work that goes into that. We know that there'll be challenges along the way, along with a lot of hard work. But whoever comes in I can be sure will enjoy the environment, knowing that they have to play their part, for which we hope to reap the rewards.

CF11: It'll be a big year indeed ... we're hoping the Match of the Day boys will be kind.

MALKY: Without a doubt. It's a big task and I'll be speaking to as many people as I can, those who can offer some good advice on life in the Premier League. I'll take on board as much as I can.

CF11: For the team it'll be a case of not getting starry-eyed, going out there to work.

MALKY: We'll be competitive in every game we play, I can guarantee you that. We've won this division and earned the right to be named the best team in the league, allowing us to take that step up to the Premier League. For all of the players, they'll do that knowing that they've earned the right to be there.

CF11: Finally, the supporters have been vital this season and will be called upon again next year, albeit in a far harder league.

MALKY: It's obviously going to be different, there will be top teams coming here and we'll be travelling all over Britain at a higher level, places that for years most of our fans have only watched league games on TV. Our fans are passionate people and I don't expect any less from them but to be behind their team, backing us to the hilt as I've seen them do since the first day I walked through the door. It'll be a season to enjoy and I'm glad to have them stood beside us.



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Our managing Director Mark Hadley is a keen sports fan and is a supporter of both Cardiff City and Cardiff Blues. He congratulates Malky Mackay and the Bluebirds on their promotion to the Premier League.

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GMB is a campaigning Trade Union focused on protecting its members in their workplaces and growing the number of GMB members in order to strengthen the Union's power. Our website – www.gmb.org.uk – reflects GMB's aims and ideals, and shows what GMB Workplace Reps and GMB organisers do every day for GMB members.

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Heatwise have been proud sponsors of Cardiff City for many years and we hope to continue our associations with the club. It is great to see the team promoted to the Premier League under Malky Mackay and we all wish the boys every success with this afternoon's game and for next season.

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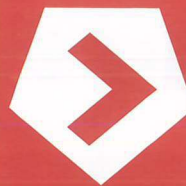
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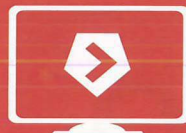
Emily Morgan

Back Row: Amy McNiven, Summer Ghanavati, Holly Williams, Leon Williams.

Front Row: Jamie DeCruz, Mike Britton, Nathan Williams, Dale Nelson.

Cardiff City Player has brought you every second of this season's glorious Championship winning campaign. Needless to say, we're not stopping here!

The privilege of such close involvement with the elite of '12/13 as part of the media team is something words cannot do justice. As it is our primary aim to bring you a service that falls second to none, we behind the scenes here at Player, are ever grateful for your continued support throughout the season.



EXCLUSIVE TV NEWS



VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

#ClubGOTM

Our **#ClubGOTM** incentive triggered masses of attention this season as a scheme that denotes the underlying values of Cardiff City – equality and unity with all those representing the Club at all levels. Congratulations this afternoon go to **Kelly Bourne** (pictured) from our Ladies' Team for taking the title for March, making for their fourth victory out of a possible seven this season. Runner-up for the month was **Liam White** from our Easter Soccer Schools, while Futsal Scholar **Yusef Dahir** took third spot.

This competition saw record numbers of involvement with over 2,000 of you voting for your favourite goal and over 3,000 hits on YouTube for our nominees. Furthermore, Club Director, **Steve Borley** has recently announced that the Cardiff City **House of Sport** will incorporate a 'Wall of Honour' in recognition of each month's winner, so there's a lot of pride and recognition at stake for every player involved.

So, with summer soon upon us, all that remains is for us to remind you that we'll be on hand as soon as the lads return from their summer breaks and plunge into preparation for our Premier League debut. Before that, tune into Player on Monday 6th May to relive all the highlights of our City Celebrations, including the open top bus tour and Bay festivities!

by Amy McNiven



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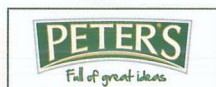
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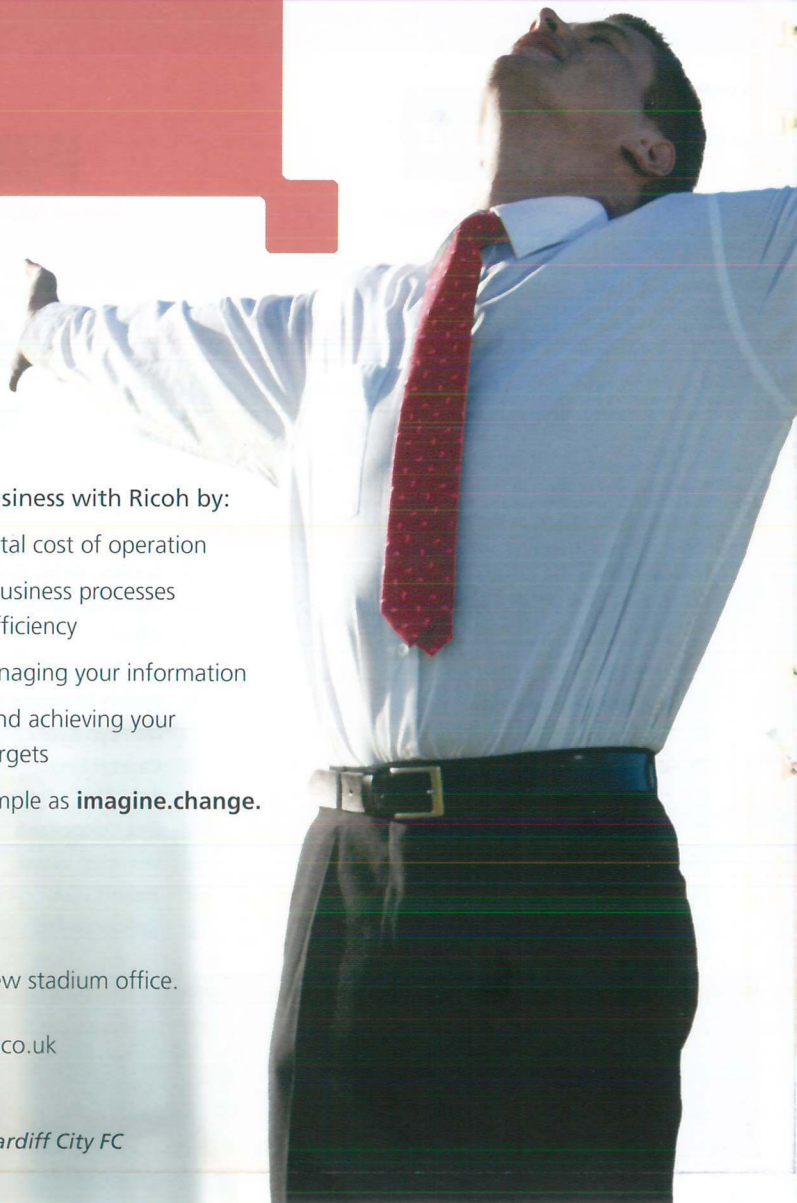
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THE HISTORY BOYS

RELIVING THE JOURNEY TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

by Club Media Editor Mark Denham (@MarkDen_CCFC)

I can clearly remember the finer details of our 0-0 draw at Brighton on August 21st. Whether that says 'keen eye for detail' or 'needs to get out more' I'm not entirely sure, but it nonetheless compelled me to put together this season review in the way I saw it from the press seats, tunnel and media wagon back to Wales.

Having watched the Bluebirds since 1994, been through the many highs and lows as a City supporter and become part of the Club's Media setup in 2008, I can confidently say that I've never enjoyed a season quite as much as this one (and I really enjoyed '98/99). As City fans we're only midway through our promotion celebrations this spring and my word, we're going to make the most of them! Here's my take on 2012/13.

AUGUST

LWDL

The season began, as it normally does, on the back of a string of pre-season friendlies in and around the South Wales/ West of England area. This past summer we enjoyed trips to Forest Green Rovers, Cheltenham Town, Oxford United and AFC Bournemouth, recording wins in the latter three prior to a glorious home run out and 4-1 victory over Newcastle United. The Newcastle game itself was preceded by a memorable Cardiff City Stadium celebration on the Friday night in which returning hero Craig Bellamy was unveiled to the expectant gathering outside a new look Cardiff City Stadium. The stage was truly set.

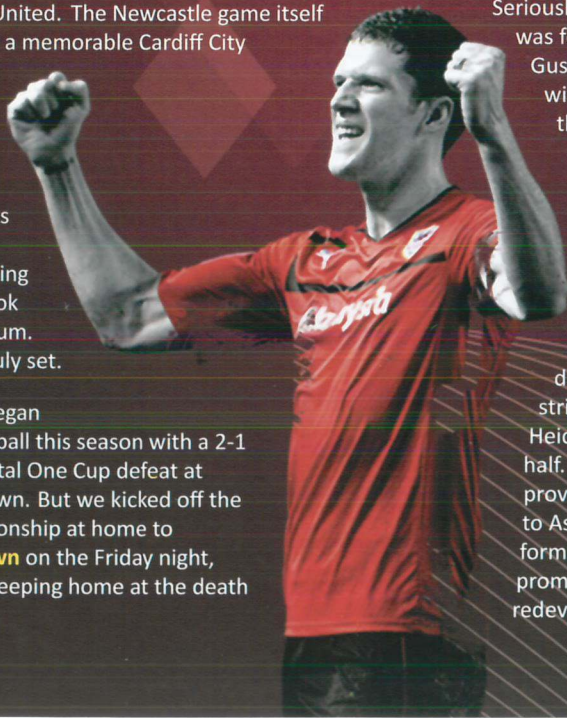
Admittedly we began competitive football this season with a 2-1 Coca...Carl...Capital One Cup defeat at Northampton Town. But we kicked off the 2012/13 Championship at home to **Huddersfield Town** on the Friday night, Mark Hudson sweeping home at the death

to secure a 1-0 win against Simon Grayson's newly promoted Terriers. Ironically, we would start the opening weekend of the season as we would finish it – top of the Championship.

Our away League schedule began at **Brighton & Hove Albion**, the AMEX a divisional favourite Stadium of mine. The game itself ended 0-0, but to quote many a pundit, 'this was one of the most entertaining 0-0 draws' you're likely to see.

Seriously, it was a good game – and it was footnoted by the witnessing of Gus Poyet analysing the match with a group of Seagulls fans on the way back to his car as if he were chatting with a group of old pals in the Montevideo branch of Kiwi's.

Next up? This one wasn't much fun. **Bristol City** managed to put four past us en route to League One despite momentary comeback strikes from Joe Mason and Heidar Helguson in the second half. Would this ultimately prove to be our last ever visit to Ashton Gate in its current form with their relegation, our promotion and proposed AG redevelopment/move? All



sevenside banter put to one side – we’ve had some great trips across the bridge to our nearby neighbours.

SEPTEMBER

WWWWLW

A decent month. Very decent. Peter Whittingham blew

Wolves away to kick things off on September’s opening Sunday with a memorable hat-trick that further established him as a Premier League player in waiting. He opened



the show with a typically assured penalty after

Bakary Sako had given the visitors the lead, prior to an awe-inspiring edge of the box left footed drive following sublime build up play by the City midfield. Into the second half and the hat-trick was completed with a mercurial left-footed free-kick from twenty-five yards out that flummoxed Wolves stopper Carl Ikeme and almost brought a celebration out of our ever-chillaxed maestro.

The annual defeat of **Leeds United** at CCS came thirteen days later following an international break, prior to Whittingham shining once more in a 2-0 win at **Millwall**. The gloss was truly removed from this victory though by virtue of a season-ending injury to Nicky Maynard, the striker tearing his ACL following an awkward landing at the New Den. We all felt for Nicky – not only a great striker, but a very likeable and affable bloke. Unfortunately we’d go on the following weekend to raise **Crystal Palace’s** promotion hopes after conceding a 2-0 lead to lose 3-2 at Selhurst Park (not my favourite Championship stadium). Nonetheless, we followed this up with a comprehensive 3-0 beating of Ian Holloway’s Blackpool – our re-generation after the Palace

defeat here a sign of something that would become synonymous with our 2012/13 campaign.

OCTOBER

WWLWW

Into October and yet another string of Ws for Mr Mackay and co.

A rainy old evening at CCS saw us overcome

Lee Clark’s

Birmingham

City, with Mark

Hudson’s goal moving us to the summit of the division for the first time this season. We wouldn’t drop lower than third at any point after this.



Heidar Helguson banished all our Portman Road ghosts the following Saturday with a double salvo at **Ipswich Town**. DJ Campbell had palmed the home side ahead on the stroke of half-time, and for those of you tuning into listen to Barrie and I on Cardiff City Player that day, you’ll forgive us for letting our Bluebirds-bias seep through the airwaves. Fortunately Heidar marvellously exploited Ipswich’s appalling defending (and goalkeeping) in the second half to nick us the win, meaning the five hour trip home was a little easier.

Defeat at **Nottingham Forest** followed, though we bounced back brilliantly once more with home wins over **Watford** and **Burnley**. Aron Gunnarsson’s injury-time winner against the Hornets brought about the first of what’s proven to be an iconic set of Gunnar-celebration shots this term, followed by another against Burnley in a comprehensive 3-0 win. Three months in and looking good.

NOVEMBER

LLWWWD

Unfortunately, as is the case most years, November follows October. Now, I've never been a real believer in trends, superstitions etc, but it does seem to be a fact that in recent seasons we've struggled during the penultimate month of the year. That being said, Malky guided us to five wins and a draw in 2011 so the ghosts of Novembers past had surely been vanquished now, right?

Maybe not quite. November 2012 would go down as our second worst month of 2012/13 by virtue, almost entirely, of back to back defeats in the opening week. These would come at **Bolton Wanderers** and **Charlton Athletic**, but would remarkably signal the only time during the whole campaign that we would incur consecutive losses. Even more impressively, it would be one of only two times that we wouldn't follow a defeat with an immediate victory. Consistent, resilient and ruthless.

Anyway, we'd better look at what happened in the opening week of November. To speak from a purely biased Cardiff perspective, I felt we were superb in the opening half at the Reebok, only to get caught out by some shaky refereeing decisions after the break. A draw may have been

a fairer result – although I appreciate that any of our visiting fans reading this afternoon may think otherwise. As for Charlton the following Tuesday and that incredible 5-4 defeat, I'm not going to say too much about it other than it was very difficult to commentate on and something of a freak result. Feel free to skip this chapter on your Season Review DVDs (pre-order from the Superstore now – see the news pages!!).

As 1994 Eurodance phenomenon (!!) Berri once sang, 'I want to see the sunshine after the rain.' Ahem. That's what we all wanted after that murky night at the Valley and City duly delivered with three straight wins over promotion rivals **Hull City** and **Middlesbrough** at home and perhaps most significantly, Barnsley away. Of note during this time was the electric form of Craig Noone, as well as the emergence of young Ben Nugent at centre-half following injury to Ben Turner. Nuge scored his first senior goal at **Barnsley** in a 2-1 win (almost suffocating Peter Whittingham in his celebrations) and indeed it was this win at Oakwell that signalled our first victory on the road since October 6th. Questions had been asked of our away form prior to this date – after which we would remain undefeated away from home until March 2nd. A 1-1 draw at Derby County signalled the end of our November duties.



DECEMBER

WWLWWW

And so it was that we'd emerged from November in a far finer state than may have been anticipated after the month's opening week. December brought with it its own challenges though, first the return of Dave Jones with his **Sheffield Wednesday** side

JANUARY

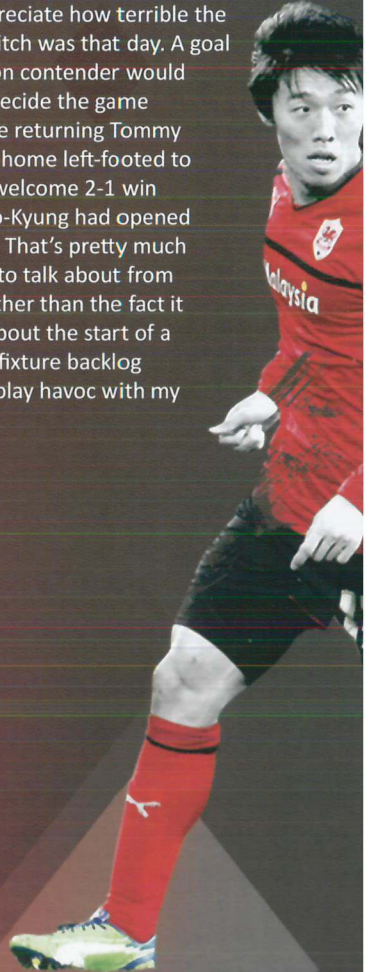
WLDW

January – the most frustrating month in the football calendar if you ask me. We all love the F.A. Cup – and I really think its tradition and prominence should be preserved – but it doesn't half botch up the League schedule at a time during which, this season certainly, we were brimming with confidence, desire and fitness. New Year's Day allowed Joe Mason to give us a 1-0 win at **Birmingham City**, before our youngsters bowed out with dignity at Macclesfield Town. We returned to League action the following weekend with a very unmemorable home stalemate with Ipswich, though jubilantly saw off those perennial tormentors **Blackpool** by a goal to nil at Bloomfield Road. You had to be there to truly appreciate how terrible the Blackpool pitch was that day. A goal of the season contender would ultimately decide the game though – the returning Tommy Smith firing home left-footed to seal a very welcome 2-1 win after Kim Bo-Kyung had opened the scoring. That's pretty much all we have to talk about from January – other than the fact it would set about the start of a late season fixture backlog that would play havoc with my social life!

on the opening Sunday. The revitalised Craig Conway was the man that ultimately sent the former boss home grouchy, striking home a memorable half volley that shook Cardiff City Stadium with unbridled joy. This positivity went with us to Lancashire the following weekend, where four-star City smashed a sorry **Blackburn Rovers** courtesy of Hudson, Bellamy, Mason and Kim strikes. Although our record ten home wins on the bounce would not become eleven thanks to a shock **Peterborough United** victory at CCS, the weekend before Christmas brought about yet another of those milestone victories.

King Power Stadium, Leicester. We've had some ding-dongs with the Foxes in recent seasons haven't we? This match was no different – high intensity with heroic defending but crucially decided by a Premier-class Bellamy strike midway through the first half. Tom Meighan of Kasabian sits with his family in the row directly in front of the press box at the King Power and while they seem a genuinely pleasant group of people, they don't half go through the mill in the name of **Leicester City**.

Boxing Day saw us face off against **Crystal Palace** at CCS and it was that man Gunnarsson again who scored the crucial winner to keep the Eagles firmly in our wake as we approached the New Year. Our final game of 2012 brought about a 1-0 win over Millwall with Rudy Gestede the scorer. 2012 would end on a high.



FEBRUARY

WDWLW

Cardiff City had made a serious statement of intent during the January transfer window with the acquisition of England international Fraizer Campbell. Seen by many as the necessary addition to the squad on the back of the Nicky Maynard injury, Fraizer's introduction to the squad signalled more goals would be coming for a Bluebirds squad pulsing with ambition and work ethic.

We kicked off February at Elland Road, whose match-day staff it must be said would get my vote this season for divisional friendliness. We all enjoy a bit of **Leeds** banter naturally, but credit where it's due in this instance. As for the game itself, well if there was to be a winner it was only ever going to be the Bluebirds. Cue the introduction of Campbell as a sixty-first minute substitute, an instinctive finish with only his second touch and yet another memorable victory in the Whites' back yard.

Another kick-about in the sand came for us the following weekend at **Huddersfield Town**, where you'd have to say we could have won by a significant margin had the ball been allowed to bounce naturally among the divots. As it was we were forced to settle for a 0-0, prior to a 2-1 home win over **Bristol City** – Campbell again at the double. A frustrating defeat the following Tuesday at home to **Brighton** came as a minor setback, though a big 2-1 win at **Wolves** the

following Sunday kept us firmly in the driving seat. Incidentally, two more goals for Fraizer Campbell sealed that one at Molineux. The former Manchester United man had proven his worth in his opening four weeks as a Bluebird. Five goals in five starts says it all.

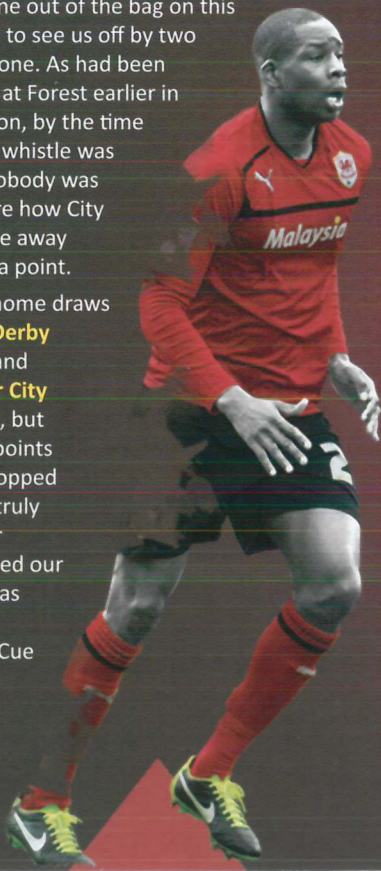
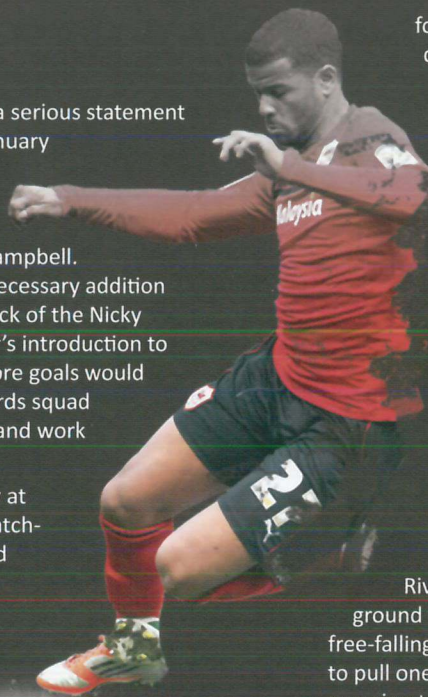
MARCH

LDDWL

Thirteen games remained and we'd been top of the pile since November 24th ahead of our trip to **Middlesbrough**. The often sparse Riverside has been a very happy hunting

ground for us in recent years, though free-falling Boro somehow managed to pull one out of the bag on this occasion to see us off by two goals to one. As had been the case at Forest earlier in the season, by the time the final whistle was blown nobody was quite sure how City had come away without a point.

Decent home draws against **Derby County** and **Leicester City** followed, but despite points being dropped nobody truly tested or questioned our position as League leaders. Cue another



significant victory – this time against **Sheffield Wednesday** at Hillsborough – where the ghost of 2009 still lingered. Dave Jones' men had no answer to Malky's for the second time this season, as Don Cowie and Matt Connolly secured a 2-0 win helped by on-loan defender Leon Barnett who performed expertly in the heart of defence. We'd slip up at **Peterborough** the following week (*what is it about that place?!*), but as April approached, there was the sense that a party was coming.

APRIL

WDDWDD

If we were to secure promotion and potentially the Championship we were going to need to uproot some significant trees during April. Fortunately we did just that, with very few nervy moments along the way.

The month began on Easter Monday at home to **Blackburn Rovers**. The former Premier League

Champions arrived with the intention of stabilising a campaign that was spiralling towards a second consecutive relegation, though City were in no mood to feel for their Lancashire rivals. Fraizer Campbell, Joe Mason and Peter Whittingham scored the goals in a 3-0 win, which set us up nicely for another of those games that on paper, we may now cite as being crucial to our ultimate success. **Watford** held one of the best home records in the division, though were unable to break down a stubborn Bluebirds side that fought out a hardy 0-0 draw.

Next up were three home games that would ultimately decide our season. A last minute equaliser denied us maximum points against **Barnsley**; though a 3-0 romping of Billy Davies' **Nottingham Forest** the following Saturday paved the way towards the finish line. Promotion was secured at home to **Charlton Athletic** on the subsequent Tuesday night, with our name etched on the trophy as Champions at **Burnley** last weekend. It's been a whirlwind few weeks at the end of a spectacular nine months. We can be very proud of this Football Club and squad as they lift the 'old lady' later today.



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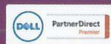
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BOLTON WAN

Today we welcome Bolton Wanderers to Cardiff City Stadium for what is sure to be a very special occasion for the home contingent. But for the throng of travelling Wanderers fans, they'll be hoping to bear witness to their club sealing a Play-Off spot, thus signalling a remarkable achievement by Dougie Freedman and his talented squad.

The stark fact that Blackburn Rovers and Wolverhampton Wanderers, the other two sides relegated from the Premier League along with the Trotters last May, are still deeply embroiled in a battle to avoid back-to-back demotions further emphasises what a success a Play-Off spot would represent to Bolton. Gone are the days when teams relegated from the Premier League bounce back immediately with any regularity. In fact, only Bolton stand in the way of this being a second season in the last three at the end of which a 'fresh' set of clubs ascend to the top flight.

Indeed this is something that just a few months ago looked almost assured with Wolves' woes and the relative struggles befitting Bolton and Blackburn at the time. At the turn of the year Wanderers sat in sixteenth position, just eight points off a Play-Off spot but with attention firmly focussed on their rear-view mirror and only a seven point cushion keeping them above the drop zone. By the end of January their position had become even more perilous, as they sat just three points ahead of Barnsley in the final relegation spot.

Then began the climb. It's Championship folklore that one team will put together a run that propels them from promotion obscurity and into the reckoning during the closing months. Reading achieved just that last year, a feat made all the more remarkable by the fact that they went on to be crowned champions, as did Roy Keane's Sunderland back in '06/07. Yet, ironically, the side who Bolton may be looking to emulate are Ian Holloway's Blackpool from '10/11 who defeated us in that season's Play-Off final and who they face in a potentially decisive fixture next Saturday.



DERERS

Introduction by Ashley James

Bolton's run of results since the beginning of February has been nothing short of astonishing, providing a level of consistency that arguably deserves to be rewarded with an extended season, be that by two matches or three. In their last fifteen fixtures the club have picked up ten wins, including a run of five in a row during early March. They head into this match having won five of their last six and with momentum firmly in their favour.

On the flip-side, three of those recent Trotter victories came against sides in and around the relegation zone, the other being last week against free-falling Middlesbrough. Since the turn of the year Bolton have defeated just two clubs from the top half of the league, though the good news for their fans is that those came convincingly against Hull and Brighton. Whether they can topple the buoyant Champions today is quite another matter, though having seen off City at the Reebok ahead of Christmas they may be quietly confident.

THE DOSSIER

BOLTON WANDERERS

BASED: REEBOK STADIUM
DISTANCE: 211 MIL / 3 HOURS 23 MIN
CAPACITY: 28,723
YEAR FORMED: 1874
MANAGER: DOUGIE FREEDMAN
CHAIRMAN: PHIL GARTSIDE
NICKNAME: THE TROTTERS,
 THE WANDERERS
TWITTER: @OFFICIALBWFC



MOST EXPENSIVE FEES

JOHAN ELMANDER
 FROM TOULOUSE
 £8.2 MIL
 2008



NICOLAS ANELKA
 TO CHELSEA
 £15 MIL
 2008



TOP GOALSCORERS

NAT LOFTHOUSE

285 GOALS, 503 APPS

JOE SMITH

277 GOALS, 492 APPS

DAVID JACK

144 GOALS, 295 APPS

JACK MILSON

142 GOALS, 235 APPS

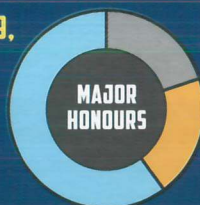
RAY WESTWOOD

127 GOALS, 301 APPS

FA CUP WINNERS (4)
1923, 1926, 1929,
1958

1ST DIV CHAMPIONS
2ND TIER (1)
1997

FA CHARITY SHIELD (1)
1958





FREEDMAN: "WE'LL BE PREPARED"

by Oliver Roderick

Bolton Wanderers manager Dougie Freedman arrives at Cardiff City Stadium today hoping to cement his club's nPower Championship Play-Off place with two games to go.

Victory for the Trotters today would do just that, as they would put themselves beyond the reach of seventh placed Leicester City despite the East Midlands' vastly superior goal difference. Eight consecutive wins at the Reebok means Bolton have better home form than anyone in the division, but three defeats in five away games mean the gap between sixth and seventh is just a point.

Last time out, Bolton took an impressive 2-1 home win over Middlesbrough, and Freedman's reaction was very positive after the match.

"It was a very good, spirited performance," the Scot told the press. "That's what we've got on our side at the moment. We've got the spirit and commitment and that's something you can't buy, that has to be developed.

"The players understand their roles and know exactly what they have to do right now. We're playing very consistently and are hitting form at the right time.

"I wrote in my programme notes about how important the fans were going to be. The atmosphere today was absolutely spot-on. We've got an away game now before we're back at the Reebok and we'll need them again for the game against Blackpool."

But recently, Freedman's Trotters have been a squad ravaged by injury, with N'Gog stretchered off during last week's trip to Leicester and Jay Spearing ruled out with a broken toe.

"Jay will be out for three weeks," the Glaswegian told the BBC. "His fitness will be fine, but he'll have three weeks in a plaster. If we manage to get into the Play-Offs, he could possibly be available. I feel for the fans because the club hasn't had any luck [with injuries] over the last couple of years."

And in relation to their all-conquering Cardiff opponents this afternoon, Freedman added: "Malky is a good mate of



DOUGIE FREEDMAN'S MANAGERIAL RECORD

Team	From	To	PL	W	D	L
Bolton Wanderers	23 Oct 2012	Present	36	15	11	10
Crystal Palace	1 Jan 2011	23 Oct 2012	92	32	28	32

mine and congratulations to him. Cardiff winning the title was fully deserved and I thought they were champions at Christmas time.

"Great credit to them. This will be a difficult match for us because they are in a very relaxed mode. We need to make sure we are prepared."



Charlie Wright

07/02/1985 - 06/12/1985

G 44 W 25%



Phil Neal

18/10/1985 - 08/05/1992

G 351 W 38%



Bruce Rioch

29/05/1992 - 08/06/1995

G 172 W 48%



Roy McFarland**

20/06/1995 - 02/01/1996

G 28 W 18%



Colin Todd

20/06/1995 - 22/09/1999

G 183 W 43%

MEDIA TALK

"Bolton skipper Kevin Davies has turned down the opportunity to join Toronto FC when his contract at the Reebok Stadium ends in the summer. Former Blackburn defender Ryan Nelsen, who is Toronto's coach, has been keen to lure the 36-year-old striker to the MLS outfit. Davies, who will end his 10-year stint at Bolton this season, did contemplate the switch before deciding against linking up with Nelsen." – Sky Sports, April 24th 2013

"Tom Eaves' home debut for Wanderers may have taken its time in coming, but the young Liverpoolian always believed his chance would come. 'I have played in three leagues this season and it's all been leading to playing for Bolton in the Championship,' he said. 'I've had to wait my time. I have been unfortunate with the timing of injuries and stuff. But, as the gaffer says, it's about being resilient and taking your chance when you get it.'" – The Bolton News, April 23rd 2013

"Wanderers have called Stuart Holden back from his loan spell at Sheffield Wednesday today to add extra impetus to their Play-Off push. Saturday's 2-1 victory over Middlesbrough puts them back into the top six, a point ahead of Leicester City, with two games to play. And Dougie Freedman has turned down the Owls' request to keep the US international on until the end of the season in order to bring him back into the Reebok fold." – The Bolton News, April 21st 2013

"Marcos Alonso looks set to leave Bolton in the summer, with Fiorentina said to be 'close' to signing the Wanderers defender. The Spaniard is out of contract at the end of the season and has attracted interest from clubs such as Stoke City, Swansea City and Celtic, as well as Serie A giants Fiorentina. The 22-year-old looks unlikely to commit to a new deal at the Reebok Stadium and his father, Marcos Alonso Pena, believes a summer switch is on the cards." – Burnden Aces, April 18th 2013

IS THE STAGE SET FOR CAPTAIN FANTASTIC?

WITH THANKS TO THE BOLTON NEWS

Kevin Davies was nowhere to be seen when travelling fans sang his name at Leicester City on Tuesday night – but have circumstances conspired to give the Wanderers hero one last hurrah?

From the moment all parties went public at the end of March with the fact that the club skipper would not see his contract renewed this summer, there has been a sad inevitability that this whole matter would not end well.

Football rarely accommodates sentimentality and one only has to think of recent examples of Ivan Campo, Stelios, Jussi Jaaskelainen or Henrik Pedersen to know that those who most deserve a chance to say goodbye don't always get the opportunity.

But there have been strong indications over the last few weeks, however, that the news Davies will be moving on to pastures new after 10 years of service has knocked the wind completely out of his sails. Whether he is in the right frame of mind or condition to seize a chance is now very much in question.

Now, completely out of the blue, a moment of sheer bad fortune for David N'Gog in midweek could be one of salvation for a man who many would argue deserves one last moment in the spotlight.

The unlucky N'Gog has been ruled out for the season with a dislocated shoulder, leaving Dougie Freedman with only two more senior strikers – Marvin Sordell and Craig Davies – and young protégé Tom Eaves to see out the crucial last games.

With a born leader in Jay Spearing also sidelined for at least the regular season and another in Craig Dawson making his last home appearance against Middlesbrough before heading back to West Brom, there is ample opportunity for someone to rise to the fore.

In short, if ever there was a time the club needed captain fantastic to rediscover his fire, this is it. Since the announcement was made that Davies would be released, he has not played for the club he still holds dear to his heart. It would just be reassuring to know that while a separation is on the cards, this will not end up in a bitter divorce.



Sam Allardyce



Sammy Lee



Gary Megson



Owen Coyle



Dougie Freedman

19/10/1999 - 29/04/2007
G 371 W 41%

30/04/2007 - 17/10/2007
G 14 W 21%

25/10/2007 - 30/10/2009
G 99 W 27%

08/01/2010 - 09/10/2012
G 126 W 33%

23/10/2012 - Present
G 36 W 42%

*All caretaker spells omitted. **Roy McFarland and Colin Todd were co-managers between 20/06/1995 and 02/01/1996.

KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

THE KEY COMPONENTS by Ashley James



MARVIN SORDELL

STRIKER

Former Watford man Marvin Sordell has been something of a renaissance man this year for Bolton. After struggling to make an impression during the club's relegation last term, he similarly failed to hit the mark back in the Championship earlier this season. Yet the turn of the year brought a change of management which has seen the England U21 International and Olympic squad member prove his worth with seven strikes to date.



CHRIS EAGLES

WINGER

Chris Eagles is seemingly a name perpetually linked with transfer window gossip. The curtain has yet to drop on this campaign, in fact it could be some way off dependent on Bolton's Play-Off ambitions, yet he's already being linked with a move away from the Reebok. The simple fact of why rests in that there are very few players around that possess his match-winning brilliance on the ball at this level or above.



ÁDÁM BOGDÁN

GOALKEEPER

While last season won't hold too many happy memories for Bolton fans as their eleven year stay in the Premier League came to an end, one of the lasting images will be the clash of the Hungarian's auburn hair against the shocking pink kit he wore for much of the campaign! His performances then, and since, suggest that the club may have already found a long-term replacement to Jussi Jääskeläinen who held the gloves for fourteen terms.

THE FAN VIEW

Cardiff City's Facebook and Twitter feeds highlight some of the Trotters' key threats.



Rhys Lee:

"City will have to watch out for **David N'Gog** and **Marvin Sordell** in particular, but I'm confident that the mighty Bluebirds can get something today!"



Keith Thomas:

"**Chris Eagles** will try a few mazy runs, but it's our party – let's celebrate in style and send the Trotters back north pointless!"



Cameron Powell:

"Bolton have a lot of Premier League experienced players in their squad and our defence will have to be on their toes with the likes of **Darren Pratley** around."



Benjamin Lintern:

"I think Bolton's key men are Bogdán, Eagles, N'Gog and Sordell. **Ádám Bogdán** is a great 'keeper and won Bolton's player of the year in 2012."

BOX TO BOX

Between the sticks: Hungarian International **Ádám Bogdán** has been the undisputed number one since the departure of Trotters legend Jussi Jääskeläinen to West Ham last summer. Former Preston stalwart **Andy Loneragan** is the very able back-up.

Full backs: Welshman and former Swansea City player **Sam Ricketts** has re-established himself as first choice right-back under Dougie Freedman, while also impressing on the International stage as a make-shift centre-back in recent matches. **Marcos Alonso**, no relation to Real Madrid's Xabi, is in the midst of a very impressive season at left-back, capitalising on yet another lost season for the oft-injured **Tyrone Mears** who's been missing since February.

At the back: **Zat Knight** and **Craig Dawson** have been the preferred pair since February, coinciding with Bolton's remarkable rise up the league table. While Knight is a player of vast experience, Dawson, currently on loan from West Brom, looks like a defender with a huge future ahead of him. Already with the experience of an Olympic Games behind

him after being part of Stuart Pearce's London 2012 squad, he now has a fine few months in the Championship to his credit too.

In the engine room: Darren Pratley has cut a rejuvenated figure in the middle of the park under Freedman and with the influential trio of **Keith Andrews** (Achilles), **Mark Davies** (Knee) and **Jay Spearing** (Toe) all missing, the former Swan's considerable Championship experience will be invaluable alongside Sierra Leone international **Medo Kamara** who joined from Partizan Belgrade in January.

Out-wide: **Lee Chung-Yong** and **Chris Eagles** represent the creative heart of the Trotters. Both capable of turning a match in their side's favour with the drop of a shoulder, Lee's successful return from a serious long-term knee injury has perhaps been the biggest plus for Wanderers this season.

Up top: After netting nine times in the first half of the season at former club Barnsley, Welsh international **Craig Davies** has found starts and goals hard to come by since the turn of the year. But with **David N'Gog** seemingly ruled out indefinitely with a shoulder problem, the uber-talented Davies should now get a chance to shine. **Marvin Sordell**, who Malky managed at Watford, will support.

KEPT IN RESERVE:

Danny Butterfield has been brought in on loan to bolster the club's defensive options having worked with manager Dougie Freedman previously at Crystal Palace. At centre-back, **David Wheeler** and **Matt Mills** are both long-term casualties, so American **Tim Ream** is first alternative. Academy product **Josh Vela** provides cover in the middle of the park, while on loan West Ham youngster **Robert Hall** and **Chris Lester** offer depth in the wide areas. Departing club legend **Kevin Davies** and **Tom Eaves**, (pictured) who's impressively bagged thirteen goals in loan spells with Bristol Rovers and Shrewsbury this year, represent the striking options.



POSSIBLE STARTING XI



THE ANORAK

THE BACKBONE

2012/13

SHARP SHOOTERS

10 EAGLES ::::

8 N'GOG ::::

6 K.DAVIES ::::

6 M.DAVIES ::::

4 DAWSON ::



THE ENERGY BUNNY

Zat Knight
(41 appearances)



THE GLADIATOR

Marcos Alonso
(33 fouls, 6 yellow, 1 red)



THE PLAYMAKER

Chris Eagles
(12 assists)



THE VETERAN

Kevin Davies
(36 years young)

SOCIAL ISSUES

FACEBOOK LIKES

65,105



FOLLOWERS

41,367



@OfficialBWFC

THE WANDERERS BY NUMBERS

The number of international goals scored by **Nat Lofthouse** for England between 1950-1958.



30



2

The number of series of the critically acclaimed Phoenix Nights – created and starred in by famous Boltonian, Peter Kay.

SHIRT EVO

2005

2000

1995

1990



THE WANDERERS

STAR MAN



GAMES

38

GOALS

10

ASSISTS

12

SHOTS

128

EAGLES

HEAD TO HEAD

	CITY	BOLTON	DRAW
LEAGUE	21	33	11
CUP	1	2	2
TOTAL	22	35	13

FORM

SEASON 2012/13

CARDIFF CITY - DDWDD

BOLTON - WWWLW



KEY DATES

BIGGEST CARDIFF CITY WIN - 12th September 1970: Bolton 0-2 City

BIGGEST BOLTON WIN - 22nd March 1986: Bolton 5-0 City

LAST MEETING - 3rd November 2012: Bolton 2-1 City

10 YEAR TIMELINE

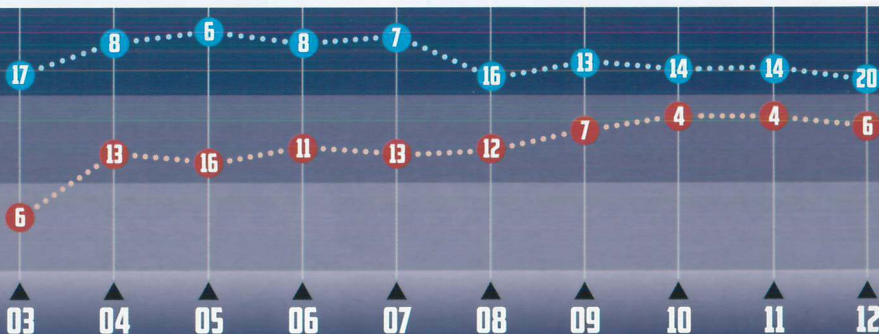
■ CARDIFF CITY

■ BOLTON WANDERERS

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MEMORABLE MOMENTS



Richard Shepherd takes a balanced view of two big games against our guests



Bolton Wanderers 0-2 Cardiff City

19th February 1927, Burnden Park (Att: 49,465)

The Game: We were facing the then current F.A. Cup holders in the 5th Round of the competition and were not expected to win. But we had a lucky mascot in the kitten 'Trixie' that had been found by the players on the Royal Birkdale golf-course while we were in training at Southport in the days leading up to the game. A 53rd minute penalty from Hughie Ferguson gave us the lead and Len Davies sealed our victory 20 minutes from time. It was a major step on our way to winning the Cup.

Cardiff City Team: Farquharson, Nelson, Watson, Keenor, Sloan, Hardy, Ferguson, Irving, Davies L, Curtis, McLachlan.

The Season: In the aftermath of the General Strike of May 1926, our support dropped off dramatically because of the poor state of the Cardiff and Valleys economy and our home League average in the old Division One was just 15,414. For the first half of 1926/27 we were in a relegation battle, but our F.A. Cup run was the catalyst for our recovery and we were to finish 14th. But the highlight of the season was our F.A. Cup Final 1-0 win against Arsenal at Wembley, the only time to date that the trophy has been won by a club from outside England.

A BIT OF 1927 CULTURE

Born this year: Actor Roger Moore was born in Stockwell, London on October 14th.



World News: Belgian astrophysicist George Lemaitre proposes the *Big Bang Theory*.

In other news: Work begins on Mount Rushmore in Keystone, South Dakota, on October 4th.



Cardiff City 0-1 Bolton Wanderers

15th October 1960, Ninian Park (Att: 22,672)

The Game: We were 17th in the old First Division while Bolton were 20th. Included in their line-up was former England centre-forward Nat Lofthouse who had been with them for 20 years and who had come out of retirement a few games earlier. We had full-back Trevor Edwards playing in attack, but in a poor performance we never looked like winning. It was Lofthouse who scored the only goal of the game after 12 minutes when he got the better of our skipper Danny Malloy. Bolton did the double over us the following March with a 3-0 win at Burnden Park.

Cardiff City Team: Nicholls, Harrington, Milne, Gammon, Malloy, Hole, Hudson, Tapscott, Edwards, Donnelly, Watkins.

The Season: We were back at top level (the old First Division) after a 3 year absence, and it took us some time to establish ourselves in the division. At the turn of the year we were in mid-table and some good performances in January/February saw us in the top half of the division. When we beat the eventual League Champions/F.A. Cup winners Tottenham 3-2 at Ninian park in early-March, we were described as the most improved team in the League and were in 6th place. But we did not win any of our remaining 9 games and finished 15th.

A BIT OF 1960 CULTURE

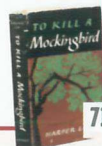
Born this year: Actress and star of Kill Bill Daryl Hannah was born on December 3rd.



At the movies: Steve McQueen & Yul Brynner head an all-star cast in *The Magnificent Seven*.



In other news: Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* is published for the first time on July 11th.



NATHAN BLAKE

Interview: Richard Shepherd

Our final interview of the season in this series is with former Cardiff City and Wales International **NATHAN BLAKE**, who was with us from 1989 until February 1994. Nathan had a number of promotions during his career, including our 1992/93 Third Division title season before moving on to various clubs including today's opponents Bolton Wanderers. He's now back where he started his League career, but watching from the media area as a summariser for BBC Radio Wales. Richard Shepherd recently caught up with him.

CF11: Welcome back to the match-day programme Nathan! You live in the Gwent area these days – tell us a little about your background that we may not know about.

NATHAN: Well I was born in Cardiff but grew

up in Newport. I come from a sporting family – my uncle was Clive Sullivan who captained Great Britain at Rugby League, and I've several other relatives who were Rugby Union players and boxers.

CF11: How did your footballing career start?

NATHAN: I was on schoolboy forms with Newport County in the mid-1980s, but then in 1988 the original Newport County were liquidated for financial reasons and I was lucky enough to have been spotted by Chelsea, so I joined them on apprentice forms. I didn't make the first team with them, but played for the youth side and occasionally the reserves in the Football Combination. I wasn't really happy living in London though – I was quite homesick – so Chelsea agreed to release me in 1989 and I was taken on as an apprentice professional by Cardiff City.

UPCLOS



CF11: Len Ashurst was manager at the time and Bobby Smith was his youth coach. Bobby gave you a hard time when you first joined the Club didn't he?

NATHAN: Bobby gave everyone at youth level a hard time! I probably deserved it because I was a bit of an awkward character in those days. I made my City debut as substitute in a Leyland DAF Cup Preliminary Round match at Shrewsbury in December 1989 – that's the competition for lower division clubs which is now the Johnstone's Paint Trophy. But my League debut came in late March 1990 in a Third Division 2-1 defeat at Bristol Rovers in which Len played me at left-back. That was my only League appearance that season, and Len gave me a regular place the following season (1990/91) playing me at the back. I told him I preferred to play in a more attacking role, but that didn't happen until the following season (1991/92) when Eddie May had taken over as manager. I then played in a left-side attacking role which I very much enjoyed. I'd found it easy to play at the back though, especially coming forward with the ball.

CF11: That 1992/93 season, when City won the Third Division, must have been the highlight of your Cardiff career.

NATHAN: Very much so, with players such as Carl Dale, Phil Stant, Chris Pike, Cohen Griffith, Damon Searle, Jason Perry and Robbie James involved – in fact everyone who played that



season. I especially remember the promotion clincher against Shrewsbury at home on May 1st when I scored our second goal in our 2-1 win. Jason Perry got the first and there were over 17,000 at Ninian Park. We thought that we'd go on to greater things but for a various reasons it didn't happen when we went up.

CF11: Then of course, there was that goal against Manchester City in the F.A. Cup the following season!

NATHAN: Fans still talk to me about it. There were over 20,000 there for the game and Manchester City were a Premier League club. I got the ball from a throw-in on the Bob Bank side, we were playing towards the Canton End, and I turned and curled it past their 'keeper Tony Coton with my left foot. That was in late January 1994 and a few weeks later I was transferred to Sheffield United.

CF11: A big move for you indeed, but that was also the start of a roller-coaster ride for you in terms of promotions and relegations wasn't it?

NATHAN: Yes, I've been promoted four times and relegated five times – all relegations from the Premier League. I went up with Cardiff from the lowest division, before being relegated from the top division with Sheffield United. Then I moved to Bolton in 1995 – went down with them from Premier League and up again as Champions, and then back down again. I then went to Blackburn and went up with them. Then I went to Wolves under Dave Jones and went up with them to the Premier League through the Play-Off Final at The Millennium Stadium in May 2003 – I scored in our 3-0 win against Sheffield United – but Wolves went straight back down the following season. After that I played for Leicester City, Leeds United (on loan) and finally had a brief spell with

Newport County. So I've known a lot of highs and lows. Apparently those five relegations I had from the Premier League is a joint record with Hermann Hreidarsson!

CF11: And you were of course a Wales International at various levels. What do you remember of those days in a Welsh shirt?

NATHAN: I played at Wales Under-21, Wales B and senior levels. My senior debut came under John Toshack against Norway at Ninian Park in March 1994. I made twenty-nine senior appearances between 1994 and 2004; I might have made more, but there was that well publicised falling-out with Bobby Gould when he was Welsh manager.

CF11: You retired from playing in 2006. What have you been doing with yourself since then?

NATHAN: I have a property management business – my partner is Sean Wharton whose son Theo is an academy player with Cardiff City. I also look after the interests of several young and promising players and have my media work with BBC Radio Wales and the South Wales Echo. So I'm kept pretty busy with that as well as my family life. I'm married to Leanne and we have three children – Ethan, Olivia and Jude.

CF11: How much have you enjoyed watching City's promotion campaign this season?

NATHAN: It's really great. I've always felt, even in that promotion we had from the Division Three twenty years ago, that Cardiff City were capable of reaching the Premier League some day. Now it's happened, and I'm really looking forward to watching City in action next season.

***Thank you for
being here through
the goals and own goals,
the tears and cheers,
the rain and more rain!***

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**THE FOOTBALL
LEAGUE**



CITY ARCHIVE



▼ A NOSTALGIC SERIES OF RARE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM OUR ARCHIVES

The year is 2008, the date is Friday May 16th, and our players are waiting at Cardiff Central Station for the train to London in preparation for the following day's F.A. Cup Final against Portsmouth.

The journey replicates that of 1925 and 1927 when Cardiff City travelled to London by train on the day before the Club's F.A. Cup Finals against Sheffield United and Arsenal – which they lost 1-0 and won 1-0,

respectively. Shown in our photo here are (from right to left) Riccy Scimeca, Gavin Rae, Paul Parry, Peter Whittingham, Roger Johnson, Kevin McNaughton, Michael Oakes, Stephen McPhail and Glenn Loovens. Cardiff City would battle valiantly, though lost the final to Harry Redknapp's Pompey by a goal to nil, Kanu poking home under goalkeeper Peter Enckelman in the thirty-seventh minute of the game.

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COMMERCIALS

A A-Z CITY MANAGERS

He fell out with his directors in a disagreement over his terms at the end of the Second World War, and left for Norwich City in June 1946. But CYRIL SPIERS settled his differences with Cardiff City's Board seventeen months later and was pleased to return to Ninian Park in December 1947, leading the Club to the old First Division (top level) five years later.

Birmingham-born Spiers had been a goalkeeper with Aston Villa whom he had joined as a teenager during the First World War, and made his debut for them as a 17-year-old in 1919/20. He was a regular until 1927 when he suffered a leg injury and was told that he would never play again. But he recovered, and that year went to Tottenham Hotspur with whom he played until 1933 when he damaged his hand in a practice match. He retired from playing and was appointed assistant to the Wolves manager Major Frank Buckley, but an injury crisis saw him resume playing at the age of 32.

In April 1939, Herbert Merrett became Chairman of Cardiff City, having been appointed to the Board a month earlier, and one of his first appointments was Cyril Spiers from Wolves as City's Secretary/Manager. Merrett and Spiers had big plans for City who were then in Division 3 (South) after a decade of mediocrity, though with the potential for big crowds. But the outbreak of War in September 1939 brought a temporary halt to their plans as regular League football was suspended for the duration.

Spiers stayed with City during the War years on a reduced salary, but at the end of the War, when he asked his directors for a review of his wage, he was told that the Club's financial position was such that he would have to wait until it improved. He informed the Board that if another suitable managerial position was



An A-Z throughout this season of the men who have been managers of the Bluebirds since the Club turned professional in 1910

GAMES:	276
WON:	110
DREW:	77
LOST:	89
WIN %:	40

available, then he would take it. So in June 1946, just before the start of the first full peacetime season after the War, he went to Norwich City.

His successor at Cardiff City – Billy McCandless – led the Club to promotion from Division 3 (South) as Champions in '46/47 but then unexpectedly left to join Swansea Town at the end of November 1947. City's Board asked Spiers if he was prepared to return on improved terms, and he agreed. He re-joined at one of the most successful times in City's history – we just missed out on promotion to top level at the end of

'47/48, and for the next three seasons were always in the running. But in 1951/52 we made it, winning our final three games to go up in second place.

Spiers was now 50 years old and regarded as one of the most respected managers in the game. His Chairman, now Sir Herbert Merrett, would often have his say as to how the team should be run, but Spiers knew how to handle him. City finished a respectable 12th and 10th in Division One in '52/53 and '53/54, and in that latter season Spiers signed Wales International centre-forward Trevor Ford from Sunderland for a League record £30,000. Sir Herbert apparently disagreed with the deal, but was outvoted by his fellow directors.

Whether or not that soured the relationship between Spiers and Merrett has never been confirmed, but in May 1954 Spiers resigned, no reason being ever made public. He continued in the game as manager of various clubs, eventually renewing friendship with Cardiff City and being invited to the Club's promotion/jubilee dinner in May 1960. Cyril died at the age of 65 in May 1967.





FIRST TEAM STATS

SEASON 2012-13



AUGUST

		Att	(away)	R	F-A	Pts	Pos	Referee
Tue 14	Northampton Town A	19.45	2,819	(388)	L 1-2	-	-	D. Phillips
Fri 17	Huddersfield Town H	19.45	21,127	(554)	W 1-0	3	-	R. East
Tue 21	Brighton & H. Alb. A	19.45	25,518	(825)	D 0-0	4	6	M. Halsey
Sat 25	Bristol City A	13.00	14,368	(1,862)	L 2-4	4	15	M. Jones

SEPTEMBER

Sun 02	Wolves H	14.00	22,020	(1,479)	W 3-1	7	8	A. D'Urso
Sat 15	Leeds United H	15.00	23,836	(1,777)	W 2-1	10	5	P. Tierney
Tue 18	Millwall A	19.45	9,295	(469)	W 2-0	13	5	S. Hooper
Sat 22	Crystal Palace A	15.00	12,757	(1,135)	L 2-3	13	6	G. Ward
Sat 29	Blackpool H	15.00	21,216	(539)	W 3-0	16	2	C. Boyeson

OCTOBER

Tue 02	Birmingham City H	19.45	20,278	(506)	W 2-1	19	1	K. Friend
Sat 06	Ipswich Town A	17.20	16,434	(253)	W 2-1	22	1	E. Ilderton
Sat 20	Nottingham Forest A	15.00	21,486	(1,859)	L 1-3	22	2	D. Drysdale
Tue 23	Watford H	19.45	20,077	(454)	W 2-1	25	2	M. Heywood
Sat 27	Burnley H	15.00	21,191	(477)	W 4-0	28	1	N. Miller

NOVEMBER

Sat 03	Bolton Wanderers A	17.20	17,304	(1,510)	L 1-2	28	1	A. Bates
Tue 06	Charlton Athletic A	19.45	15,764	(822)	L 4-5	28	3	K. Stroud
Sat 10	Hull City H	15.00	20,058	(432)	W 2-1	31	3	I. Williamson
Sat 17	Middlesbrough H	15.00	21,578	(739)	W 1-0	34	2	O. Langford
Sat 24	Barnsley A	15.00	8,227	(669)	W 2-1	37	1	D. Whitestone
Tue 27	Derby County A	19.45	20,911	(727)	D 1-1	38	1	M. Brown

DECEMBER

Sun 02	Sheffield Wed. H	15.00	22,034	(1,006)	W 1-0	41	1	G. Scott
Sat 08	Blackburn Rovers A	15.00	12,460	(594)	W 4-1	44	1	S. Hooper
Sat 15	Peterborough Utd. H	15.00	26,073	(264)	L 1-2	44	1	D. Coote
Sat 22	Leicester City A	15.00	25,055	(2,127)	W 1-0	47	1	G. Salisbury
Wed 26	Crystal Palace H	15.00	26,098	(1,190)	W 2-1	50	1	P. Gibbs
Sat 29	Millwall H	15.00	24,263	(435)	W 1-0	53	1	M. Halsey

JANUARY

Tue 01	Birmingham City A	15.00	17,493	(2,270)	W 1-0	56	1	R. Madley
Sat 05	Macclesfield Town* A	15.00	3,165	(641)	L 1-2	-	-	A. Madley
Sat 12	Ipswich Town H	15.00	22,727	(525)	D 0-0	57	1	S. Mathieson
Sat 19	Blackpool A	17.20	13,998	(930)	W 1-0	60	1	M. Naylor

FEBRUARY

Sat 02	Leeds United A	15.00	19,236	(446)	W 1-0	63	1	M. Dean
Sat 09	Huddersfield Town A	15.00	15,265	(1,727)	D 0-0	64	1	M. Brown
Sat 16	Bristol City H	13.00	25,586	(2,054)	W 2-1	67	1	E. Ilderton
Tue 19	Brighton & H. Alb. H	15.00	23,782	(902)	L 0-2	67	1	K. Stroud
Sun 24	Wolves A	14.00	20,934	(2,500)	W 2-1	70	1	S. Attwell

MARCH

Sat 02	Middlesbrough A	15.00	15,440	(611)	L 1-2	70	1	M. Haywood
Tue 05	Derby County H	19.45	21,544	(550)	D 1-1	71	1	D. Deadman
Tue 12	Leicester City H	19.45	23,231	(976)	D 1-1	72	1	N. Miller
Sat 16	Sheffield Wed. A	15.00	24,191	(1,366)	W 2-0	75	1	J. Linington
Sat 30	Peterborough Utd. A	15.00	9,236	(2,174)	L 1-2	75	1	E. Ilderton

APRIL

Mon 01	Blackburn Rovers H	15.00	24,327	(399)	W 3-0	78	1	C. Pawson
Sat 06	Watford A	17.20	15,550	(2,129)	D 0-0	79	1	M. Halsey
Tue 09	Barnsley H	19.45	22,584	(243)	D 1-1	80	1	F. Graham
Sat 13	Nottingham Forest H	15.00	26,588	(2,046)	W 3-0	83	1	A. Marriner
Tue 16	Charlton Athletic H	19.45	26,338	(620)	D 0-0	84	1	S. Mathieson
Sat 20	Burnley A	12.45	13,264	(1,635)	D 1-1	85	1	S. Attwell
Sat 27	Bolton Wanderers H	15.00						

MAY

Sat 04	Hull City A	12.45						
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*Subs used v Macclesfield Town: Luke Cousion (58)+, Tommy O'Sullivan (64)+, Theo Wharton (72)+

KEY:

○ PLAYER STARTED ● GOAL SCORER □ RED CARD ○ OWN GOAL ■ YELLOW CARD ▣ RED CARD RESCINDED
Substitutes ON: (time)+ OFF: (time)-
U Unused Sub * OWN GOAL(S) conceded

F.A. CUP MATCH CAPITAL ONE CUP MATCH H - HOME MATCH A - AWAY MATCH

Matthew CONNOLLY	Bo-kyung KIM	Tommy SMITH	Rudy GESTEDE	Craig NEONE	Aron GUNNARSSON	Jordan MUTCH	Kadeem HARRIS	Joe MASON	Joe RALLS	Heddar HELGUSON	Nicky MAYNARD	Simon LAPPIN	Kerim FREI	Leon BARNETT	Fraizer CAMPBELL	Ben NUGENT	Joe LEWIS	Nat JARVIS	Adediji OSHILAJA	Kerim SAINT-LUCE	STEPHEN MCPHAIL	CRAIG BELLAMY	Declan JOHN
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	25	27	31	32	33	35	36	37	39	42
						(51)+		●(51)-	●	●●(61)-			●			●	●	(61)+	●	●	●(19)-	●	
					●	●(85)-	●(46)-	(46)+	●(80)+	●(77)-							U					●(73)-	
●		●(75)-			●(46)-			(46)+								U	U						
●	U	●		●(74)-	(59)+	●(59)-		(68)+		●	●(68)-					U	U						
●	U	●		●(64)-	(76)+	●(76)-		U		●	●(83)-					U	U					(64)+●	
●	(80)+	●		●●(80)-	●	●		U		(67)+	●(67)-					U	U					●(82)-	
●	●(88)+	●(88)-		(75)+	●●			(82)+		●						U	U					●(82)-	
●●	(72)+	●(25)-		●	●			(25)+	●(81)-								U					●(72)-	
●	(84)+			●(84)-	●			●		●							U					●●(79)-	
●	U		(64)+	●(55)-				●(64)-		●●							U						
●	U	●	(65)+	(62)+	●(65)-			(81)+	U	●●							U						
●	U	●(84)-	(74)+	●	(84)+●			(46)+		●							U					●(46)-	
●●	●(78)-		(63)+	●●(83)-	(78)+●			●●		●(63)-			(83)+				U						
●●	●(70)-		(63)+	●●	(70)+			●(83)-		●(63)-			(83)+				U						
●	(65)+		(73)+	●●	(65)+●			●●		●●(73)-			●(65)-				U						
●●	●		(66)+	●	●			(46)+	●	●●(66)-						U	U						
●●	●		U	●	●(61)-			●	(26)+	●			U			(14)+	U					(61)+	
●	●		(61)+	●	●●(70)-	(70)+●		●(75)-	U	●(61)-		●●				●●	U					(75)+	U
●	●		U	●	●(73)-	(70)+●		(79)+	●	●●(79)-						●						●(70)-	U
●	●(60)-		(70)+		(79)+	●(79)-		(60)+		●(70)-			U				U					●	
●	(69)+●		(90)+	●(69)-	U			(80)+●		●(90)-			U				U					●●(80)-	
●	U		(64)+●	●	(51)+	(53)+		U		●			U				U					●	
●	●(55)-		(51)+	U	(76)+	●(76)-		U		●(51)-							U				●●		
●	U		(57)+	●●(76)-	(46)+●	●(46)-		(76)+		●(57)-			U				U				●		
U	U		●●(77)-	●(73)-	●(45)-	(45)+		U		(77)+							U				●		
●	●(67)-		(70)+	(67)+	●	●(51)-		●●(70)-	U	U		●					U				●		
●	U	(68)+	●(46)-	●(68)-	●			(46)+	●	(86)+							U				●		
●	●●(76)-	●●(65)-	U	U	●	U		●		(65)+						(48)+	U					●	
●	●(61)-	●		U	●			U		(79)+					(61)+●		U				●		
●	●(46)-	●(73)-		U	●			U		(46)+					(73)+	(46)+	●	U			●		
●	(84)+	●(64)-		●(84)-		U		U		(72)+					●●●(72)-	●	U				●		
●	U	●		●(53)-	●	U		U		(84)+					●(84)-		U				●		
●	(80)+			U	●	U		U		(82)+					●●●(82)-		U				●		
●	U	●(58)-		(74)+	●●			U		(58)+					●	(46)+	U					●(74)-	
●	U	●(72)-	(84)+	(72)+●	●			(76)+		●(76)-					●	●	●						
●	U	●	(70)+●	●(46)-	●			U		U					●	●	U					(46)+	
●●	U	(81)+	(87)+		●	U				●(87)-				●	●	●	U					●(81)-	
●	U	●(58)+		●●	U			(77)+		●(77)-				●	●(58)-		U						
●	●		(88)+	U	●	●		(58)+●				U		●	●●(58)-		U					●(88)-	
●(10)-	●	(69)+	(56)+	●	●	●		●(56)-		U				●	●		U				●		
	●(68)-	●(80)-	U	U	●	●		●(58)-		(58)+				●		U	U				●		
	●	(74)-	(46)+●●	(74)+	●	●(87)-		U		●●(46)-				●		U	U				●		
	●	(71)+	●	●(71)-	●	●		U		U				●		U	U				●		
	●		●(66)-	●(74)-	●	●(74)-		U				U		●		U	U				(66)+		

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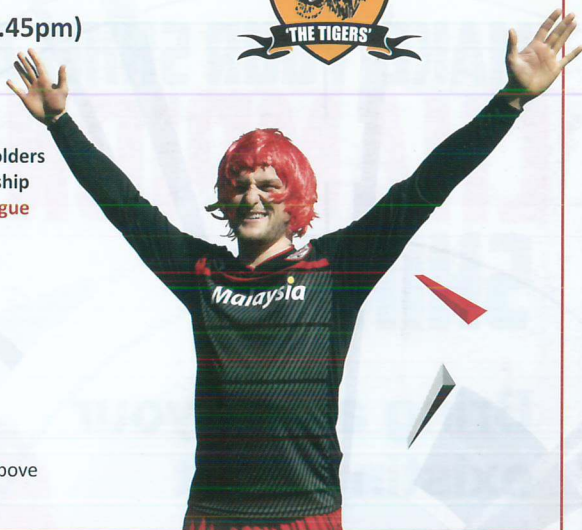
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HULL CITY
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4.40am
5.00am
5.10am
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HUDSON: THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY CAREER

Cardiff City captain **Mark Hudson** will spark the biggest cheer of the season when he lifts the Championship trophy at around 5.15pm this afternoon.

Title-winners Cardiff City will be awarded the cup soon after the final whistle in today's game, against Bolton Wanderers.

"I can't wait to get my hands on that trophy," says Hudson. "I'll be picking it up. Nobody is getting their hands on it until I've had a good go! This will be the biggest moment of my career."

Centre-half Hudson is ruled out by injury and won't play against Bolton, but he will lead his club-mates up for their moment of glory.

"Our first priority is to finish our home fixtures with a win and that's exactly what the lads will try to do," he added. "We know how much this match means to Bolton and other teams in and around the top six. The manager will quite rightly demand we do everything possible to produce a quality team display. We are not going to let up now.

"Our target is to finish our home season with a win against Bolton. Only then once the final whistle blows, will we think about the trophy."

Hudson has made more than 150 first team appearances, scoring 11 goals, and is a major contender for player of the season despite being ruled out by injury for the last six weeks.

"It's been an amazing season, the highlight of my career," Huds continued. "Everybody here deserves the success. When we sit down over the summer we will reflect on what has been a sensational season. Personally, until I was injured things were really going well. I felt I had been improving all season as a centre-half, leader and captain. I'm learning in all sorts of ways and, for me, it just keeps getting better. I feel I haven't reached my best yet and will keep striving to progress as a player."

Son Ollie, who is almost three, was born here and will be on the Cardiff pitch with his dad when the trophy is presented tomorrow, while wife Marie-Louise is expecting their second child in July.

"We love it here," says Hudson. "People back in London ask when I'm going home and I tell them 'This is our home'. Ollie goes to nursery here in Cardiff,



we are looking at schools for him and we want to stay. I'd love to stay here as long as possible. Signing for Cardiff was a great move for me personally and it's worked out well. Earning promotion this season and winning the title is a fantastic feeling."

Hudson is under contract through next season with an option which takes him to 2015 and he says: "I don't want to go anywhere. It's a huge honour for me to be captain of such a great club. I realise how much this means to Cardiff fans who have waited so long for their team to earn promotion, but it's going to be difficult to completely understand the enormity of what we have done as a group until the season is over.

"We've had little celebrations along the way, but maybe it won't sink in properly until the Premier League fixtures come out in June. It's going to be a challenge, but it's one we will grasp. Cardiff City are in the Premier League for next season and now we want to stay in it."

Hudson's favourite team as a schoolboy was Everton – 'my stepfather is from Liverpool' he explains, while he is also keen to play against Fulham.

"I played against Everton for Palace at Premier level, but I really look forward to doing that again for City next season," says Hudson. "I would also enjoy playing against Fulham. They were my first club and

I've never had the chance to play against them."

Hudson will be in the City dressing room before this afternoon's kick-off against Bolton as he has been at every game since he was injured, but he will be going up to collect the trophy soon after the final whistle.

Next Saturday, Hudson's City travel to play Hull in our final Championship clash and only then will they finally be able to sit back and enjoy the moment.

"We've won the title, we have lifted any pressure and you will see a release in terms of the team performance over these final fixtures," the Skipper stated to Terry Phillips and the South Wales Echo.

"We have two tough matches, but there won't be any pressure on us. Then, when the season is over for us, we will be able to celebrate with Cardiff fans when we go on an open top bus tour of the city. I just hope it's sunny. I'm told there could be 100,000 people turning out to watch. That's something I have never been involved in and that's the moment we will be able to let go, when the season is over.

"Right now there is still a lot to play for, particularly for the two teams we still have to face. We must not let up and will not let up. There may be a little less pressure, but there is no way we want to collect the trophy having played below our best."





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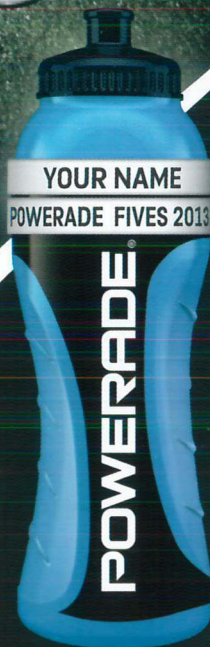
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03. ANDREW TAYLOR
04. FILIP KISS
05. MARK HUDSON
06. BEN TURNER
07. PETER WHITTINGHAM
08. DON COWIE
09. ETIEN VELIKONJA
11. CRAIG CONWAY
12. MATTHEW CONNOLLY
13. KIM BO-KYUNG
14. TOMMY SMITH
15. RUDY GESTEDE
16. CRAIG NOONE
17. ARON GUNNARSSON
18. JORDON MUTCH
19. KADEEM HARRIS
20. JOE MASON
21. JOE RALLS
22. HEIÐAR HELGUSON
23. NICKY MAYNARD
24. SIMON LAPPIN
25. LEON BARNETT
27. FRAIZER CAMPBELL
29. ELLIOTT PARISH
31. BEN NUGENT
32. JOE LEWIS
37. STEPHEN McPHAIL
39. CRAIG BELLAMY



BOLTON WANDERERS

MANAGER DOUGIE FREEDMAN

01. ÁDÁM BOGDÁN
02. TYRONE MEARS
03. MARCOS ALONSO
04. MATTHEW HILLS
05. TIM REAM
07. CHRIS EAGLES
08. KEITH ANDREWS
09. DAVID N'GOG
11. GREG WYLDE
12. ZAT KINIGHT
14. KEVIN DAVIES
15. CRAIG DAWSON
16. CRAIG DAVIES
17. ROBERT HALL
18. SAM RICKETTS
19. MARVIN SORDELL
20. JAY SPEARING
21. DARREN PRATLEY
23. JOE RILEY
24. ANDY LONERGAN
25. JOSHUA VELA
26. ROBERT LAINTON
27. LEE CHUNG-YONG
28. CRAIG DAVIES
29. JÁN GREGUŠ
31. DAVID WHEATER
33. ADAM BLAKEMAN
34. JAY LYNCH
35. JOE McKEE
36. CIAN BOLGER
37. JACK SAMPSON
38. SANMI ODELUSI
39. ALEX McQUADE
40. ZACH CLOUGH
41. CHRIS LESTER
43. DANNY BUTTERFIELD
44. MEDO



	P	GD	Pts
1 Cardiff City	44	27	85
2 Hull City	44	11	78
3 Watford	44	27	74
4 Brighton	44	23	69
5 Crystal Palace	43	10	67
6 Bolton	44	8	66
7 Leicester City	44	23	65
8 Nottm Forest	44	4	64
9 Charlton	44	3	61
10 Birmingham	44	-4	60
11 Derby County	44	3	58
12 Middlesbrough	44	-7	58
13 Leeds United	44	-9	58
14 Ipswich Town	44	-13	57
15 Blackburn	44	-7	56
16 Burnley	44	-1	55
17 Blackpool	44	-2	55
18 Millwall	43	-9	55
19 Sheffield Wed	44	-9	55
20 Huddersfield	44	-22	54
21 Peterborough	44	-9	51
22 Wolves	44	-11	51
23 Barnsley	44	-16	51
24 Bristol City	44	-20	41

PRIOR TO THIS
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12.45pm - Championship

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OUR HEARTS

Can you remember your first ever game? For many of us our first memory of taking in a professional football match came as a youngster, being brought to a game... some of us dragged, some by choice with a family member. From that point on we're hooked, not just on the game, but on what it means to be a part of the crowd, part of the community, part of a wider football family. Lifelong friendships are forged along the way as we share the highs and lows together, on occasion vowing never to return, only for the pull of supporting your local football club proving too strong a force to resist.

Our most vivid football memories are often built away from the action. The long trips to away games, van breakdowns, lost tickets, lost friends and many more adventures; they all add up and make supporting your local team so much more than cheering on eleven men on a pitch.

In August we embark on our first season of top flight football in fifty one years, giving all of us at Cardiff City much to celebrate and savour. Let's face it, we've waited long enough, some of us never experiencing such heights in our lifetime. As per recent and long awaited trips to Wembley Stadium, we know that this is a step not all of us can take together, having lost loved ones along the way. It's at this time that we should not mourn lost family and friends missing the Premier League dream; we should instead celebrate and remember the great times we've all shared along the way.

As the saying goes, "To absent friends". Today, once again, let's enjoy a match before raising a glass to cherished memories and loved ones as the Championship trophy is proudly lifted. We now look to the future with optimism, knowing all the while that as our journey continues, our fellow Cardiff City fans remain forever in our hearts.



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